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SOMA

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SPLASH

FLAP

FLAP

BOOOOOOOOOM

HEY, OCTOPOD! HEY, SPACE PEST! ARE YOU FROM SPACE? NEVER MIND. OVER HERE!

WHAT A MESS...

WOW.
LOOKS LIKE
IT'S TIME TO
GRAB A LITTLE
OLIVE OIL AND
PAPRIKA.

SAFE

ALIENS ARE GETTING SO TASTELESS. I SHOULD FILE A COMPLAINT.

DANGE

NO WAY...

OK, THAT WAS CLOSE...

SL

ASH

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES A DAY I HAVE TO ENDURE THOSE CURSED SUSHI QUIPS?

ALL MY OTHER QUIPS ARE R-RATED, BUDDY.

SH...

DANGER

OK, THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS...

LET'S SEE WHAT THOSE LITTLE LEGS CAN DO!

YAAR

AWN

JUST WHAT I NEEDED!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THIS PLOT IS...

...SO BORING...

YAAWN

HEY THERE, I'M MAYA.

YAAWN

I'D LOVE TO ADD SOMETHING LIKE, "AND MY FRIENDS CALL ME SO AND SO."

BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE TRUE. IT'S JUST MAYA.

Sip

THIS COFFEE IS FREEZING.

I DRAW COMICS, OR AT LEAST I TRY TO.

NIINONI

WAKE UP!
STOP ALARM
8:00

AND THAT MEANS TWO THINGS--I HARDLY HAVE TIME FOR ANYTHING ELSE...

STOP ALARM

TAP

HUH

...AND LATELY I HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ANY SCRIPTS I ACTUALLY DIG.

STOP WARS!

Juu's room.

This is Juu.

BZZZ

8:00

STOP ALARM

FLOP

Bzz

BzZ

BZZZZZZ

8:00

BZZZZZZ

TAP

8:01

PINDER

PAM HAS SENT YOU A MESSAGE! <3

1

"PAM: Hellooo! :D
If you don't mind, let's have lunch instead. Got another plan for tonite. Don't care where, pick the place and LMK later. LU! :3"

mind, let's have lunch instead. Got

DING!

JUU:

CODE RED! WE GOT A CODE RED!

SUPER RED!!!

We need an emergency plan! We need to call the Army, the Pentagon, frikkin' NASAAAAAA!

. . .

SMART PHONE UPSIDE DOWN

DING!

DING!

DING!

DING!

FLIP

PAM!

DING

JUU

INCOMING CALL: JUU

23 UNREAD MESSAGES

YOU JUST BROKE MY PHONE.

MAYA, HELP ME!!!

THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN JUST HAPPENED!

SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE

PLEASE SLOW DOWN, JUU. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED YET.

PAM, THE GIRL FROM THE DATING APP, JUST TOLD ME SHE WANTS TO HAVE LUNCH.

WELL... ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?

NO WAY! WE HAD SETTLED ON A DINNER DATE AND NOW SHE WANTS TO CHANGE EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU SEE?

I HAD A PLAN, BUT NOW IT'S BLOWN UP IN MY FACE!

JUU...

NOON ISN'T MY THING. I'M MORE OF A NIGHT OWL, EVENING TOPS.

MY SKIN LOOKS TOO PASTY IN THE SUNLIGHT! IT'S HORRIFYING...

JUU, LISTEN!

DATES ARE LIKE THAT. SOMETIMES PLANS CHANGE, AND THAT'S ALL RIGHT. HAPPENS MILLIONS OF TIMES EVERY DAY.

BUT...

RELAX. BREATHE AND COUNT TO THREE HUNDRED. THIS ISN'T THE END OF THE WORLD...

UGHHH...

WHAT?

LET'S GET BREAKFAST. I NEED YOUR WISDOM.

NO.

PUH-LEEZ...

NO WAY, I'VE GOT TO FIN...

PUH-LEEEEEEZ...

...OK.

COFFEE LAND, AN HOUR FROM NOW. LET'S KEEP IT BRIEF.

...

AN HOUR FROM NOW!

TAP

SCRAT

I'LL NEVER FINISH THIS.

8:30

SOLE.

THE BIG CITY.

WHEN I MOVED HERE EVERYONE SAID, "IT'S WONDERFUL, YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL."

"YOU'LL NEVER GET BORED. YOU CAN GO TO A MUSEUM, THE THEATER, A CONCERT, OR CHOOSE BETWEEN THOUSANDS OF OPTIONS WHEN YOU GO TO THE MOVIES..."

"YOU CAN GO TO THE PARK, RIDE THE TRAM, AND GET LOST AROUND TOWN. GO TO THE BEACH, HIKE, BATHE AT THE HOT SPRINGS, GO ON A PICNIC, HIT A PUB OR A DISCO..."

MUTANTS FROM OUTER SPACE

DON'T TELL ME I FORGOT THE LIGHTER AT THE AP...

COUGH COUGH

IT'S NOT EVEN LIT.

COUGH

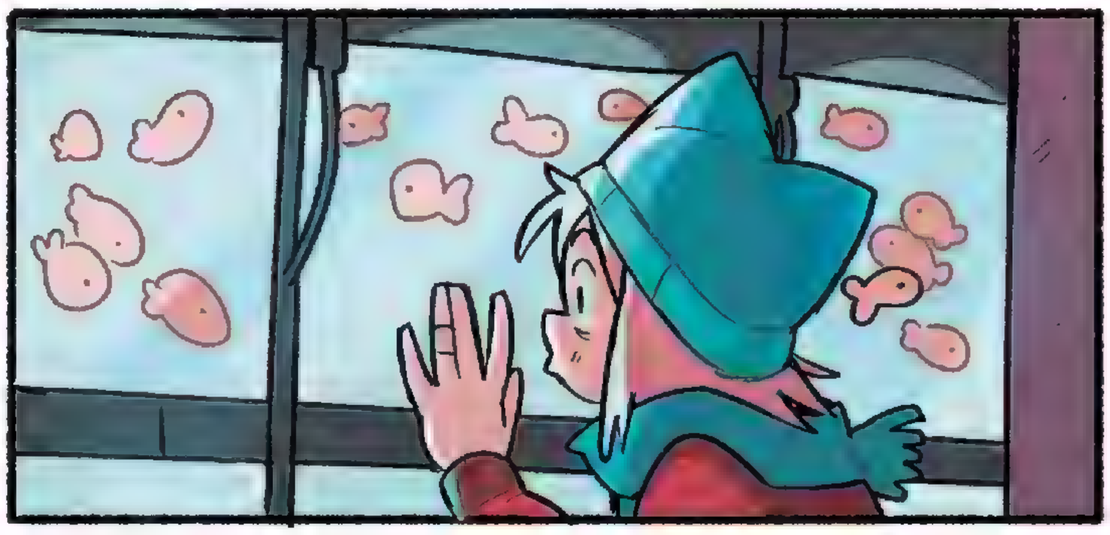
NONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO TOLD ME SUCH THINGS TOOK AN IMPORTANT FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT--I'M A COMICS ARTIST. MY TIME OFF EACH WEEK RANGES FROM ZERO TO NONE WHATSOEVER.

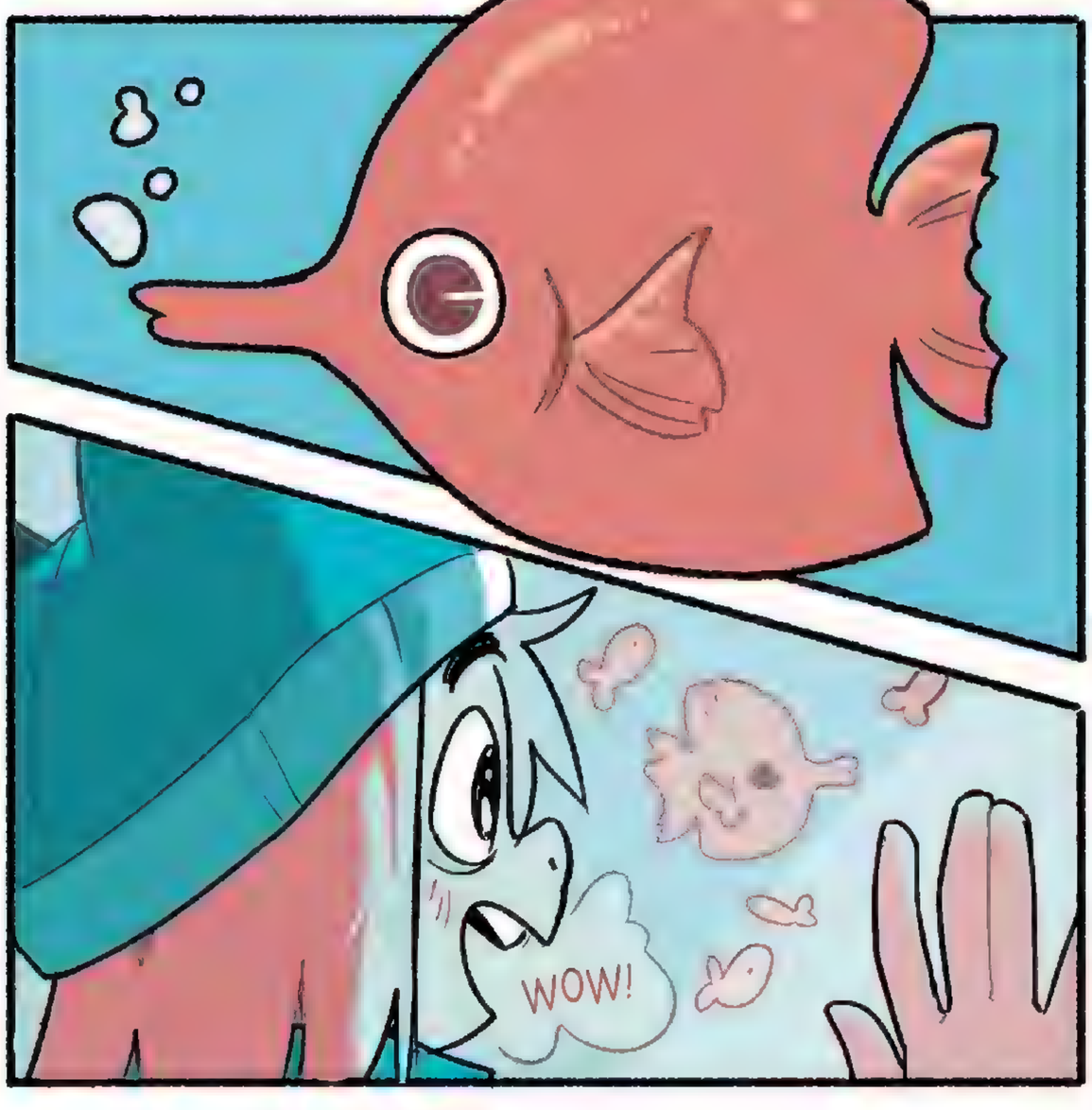
WITH ANY LUCK, I CAN GO OUT FOR BREAKFAST OR GRAB A SNACK WITH JUU ONCE IN A WHILE. I LOVE BREAKFAST. I WISH I COULD EAT IT FOR EVERY MEAL OF THE DAY.

Anima
PET SHOP

Anima
PET SHOP

Anima
PET SHOP




WOW!

MOM, IS THAT GIRL A BUM?

SHUSH, DON'T SAY THAT! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?

HA HA! THE THINGS CHILDREN SAY SOMETIMES, RIGHT?

WE SHOULD SPARE A QUARTER FOR HER, I'M SURE SHE NEEDS IT.

GOT A QUARTER?

WELL...THERE YOU GO...HA HA...HAVE A NICE...

BYE!

AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE WEIRD ONE...

9:01

You're late! If you're not here in two minutes, I'll start without you.

HEY, GOT A LIGHTER YOU COULD SPARE?

HERE YOU GO.

THANKS.

MAYAAAA!

YOU'VE COME!

I SHOULD'VE STAYED HOME.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

I WANT TO SMOKE.

OUT HERE? IT'S FREEZING.

I'M FINE.

EVEN THE PIGEONS ARE WEARING SCARVES.

THIS WAY WE GET A LITTLE SUNLIGHT. GO ON, SIT.

GOOD MORNING. WHAT CAN I GET YOU?

SCRATCH

ER...NO... HMMM...A SANDWICH AND A SODA?

COMING RIGHT UP! ♡

Later on...

AND WHAT IF IT GOES SOUTH? WHAT IF SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME?

WELL, SURELY THE WORLD WOULD END AND THAT WOULD TRIGGER A DOOMSDAY SCENARIO.

REALLY?

THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN, AND EVEN IF IT DID, YOU CAN ALWAYS GO BACK TO THE APP AND LOOK FOR ANOTHER HOOKUP.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM! THE DAMN APP! IT AIN'T NATURAL!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...

LOVE'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN WHEN TWO PEOPLE REACH FOR THE SAME APPLE IN THE SUPERMARKET OR AFTER BUMPING INTO ONE ANOTHER IN THE LIBRARY AND SPILLING THEIR PAPERS EVERYWHERE!

I FEEL PHONY, LIKE I'M CONCEALING MY TRUE SELF...

AND A LITTLE DIRTY...

JUU!

WHAT?

YOU'RE A GOOD GUY. YOU'RE KIND AND THOUGHTFUL, AND YOU MAY NOT BE SUPER HOT, BUT YOU'RE ALSO NOT AN EYESORE.

TH-THANKS...

TAP

DON'T BE SUCH DRAMA QUEEN. TRY TO RELAX AND JUST TAKE IT EASY. AND IF IT GOES BAD, WELL...

IT'S GOING TO GO BAD, HUH? YOU THINK SO, TOO!

IF IT DOES GO BAD, THEN WHATEVER. SUCH IS LIFE. I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND ANOTHER DATE IN NO TIME. BUT IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, THERE'S NO WAY IT WILL TURN OUT ALL RIGHT.

FIIIINE, I'LL DO MY BEST!

SEE? IT AIN'T SO HARD.

HOW ABOUT YOU? HOW ARE THINGS ON THE COMICS FRONT?

I FEEL BURNT OUT.

I LOVE DRAWING, BUT NOT SURE IF I'M DOING WHAT I LIKE.

IT'S ALWAYS ONE GIG AFTER ANOTHER, AND I NEVER HAVE TIME TO DO MY OWN THING. I DUNNO... SOMETHING TRULY PERSONAL.

WHAT STORIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL?

WELL... I'M NOT SURE.

HA HA

BUT IT WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH SOME HEROINE SAVING THE WORLD FROM GIANT OCTOPUSES OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

HA

HA

HA

HA

ALERT! GET BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD!

KEEP CALM, BE YOURSELF, DON'T PRETEND, AND EVERYTHING WILL GO FINE, OK?

I HOPE SO.

I'M LEAVING. I'VE GOTTA GO TO THE MARKET BEFORE GETTING BACK TO THE GRIND.

HUG

TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT LATER.

GOOD LUCK.

UH-OH...

3 HOURS TILL DATE TIME

HYPERMARKET

DINO BITS!

HMMM...

KIDS.

THESE ARE MUCH TASTIER!

STARMAN

PEW PEW

BOOM

AND THEY HAVE COMICS ON THE BACK!

WOW!

HMMM...

AND HOW DO COMICS MAKE THEM TASTE BETTER?

BZZZZ

MOM

BECAUSE THIS WAY YOU KNOW THE LORE BEHIND WHAT YOU EAT!

UGH.

BEEP

HI, MOM. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WHEN ARE YOU COMING OVER FOR DINNER?

WELL, I DON'T KNOW, I GOT TONS TO DO.

OH YEAH? WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THESE DAYS?

COMICS, MOM. I DRAW COMICS...

OH, THAT. WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD COME ON SUNDAY FOR YOUR COUSIN'S ANNIVERSARY.

YES, I MAY BE LATE FOR THE SLIDESHOW OF THE MOROCCO PHOTOS SHE'S ALREADY POSTED ON EVERY SOCIAL NETWORK.

WILL YOU COME BY YOURSELF?

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

IT MEANS YOU COULD BRING A BOY-FRIEND--OR GIRLFRIEND.

I DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND OR A GIRLFRIEND!

ER...

EVEN ON THE PHONE YOU MANAGE TO EMBARRASS ME.

WHO YOU FANCY IS NONE OF MY CONCERN.

ALL I'M SAYING IS, YOU COULD INTRODUCE ME TO THEM SOMETIME.

-SEA-
SALT

MOM.

SAME GOES WITH WORK. YOU NEVER TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, AND YOU KNOW MY FEELINGS ABOUT COMICS. YOU SHOULD HAVE A PLAN B.

MOM.

AND THE CIGARETTES. I'M SURE YOU'RE STILL SMOKING LIKE A CHIM--

MOM!

WHAT IS IT?

I'VE GOTTA GO, VERY BUSY TODAY. WILL CALL YOU TOMORROW, OK? LOVE YOU, BYE!

LO--

UGHHH...

"WHO YOU FANCY IS NONE OF MY CONCERN," BLAH BLAH BLAH...

I FANCY MYSELF ALL RIGHT.

THAT'S HARD ENOUGH.

SAVES ME A WHOLE LOTTA DRAMA.

I LOVE THAT MY DAYS ARE ALL THE S...

CRACK

ACK!

...AME.

CRACK

CRACK

NOT A CHANCE.

12:05

DAMN.

GOTTA FINISH THIS ALREADY.

EXCUSE ME, BUT YOU'RE MAKING ONE HECK OF A MESS.

DANGER! DANGER!

MONSTERS NEARBY!

WELL, YOU DON'T SAY.

CLOSER! CLOSER! CLOSER!

UH-
OH...

HOP!

GOT SOMETHING TO ASK YOU...

TAP

HOW CAN YOU BE SO DARN CUTE?!!!

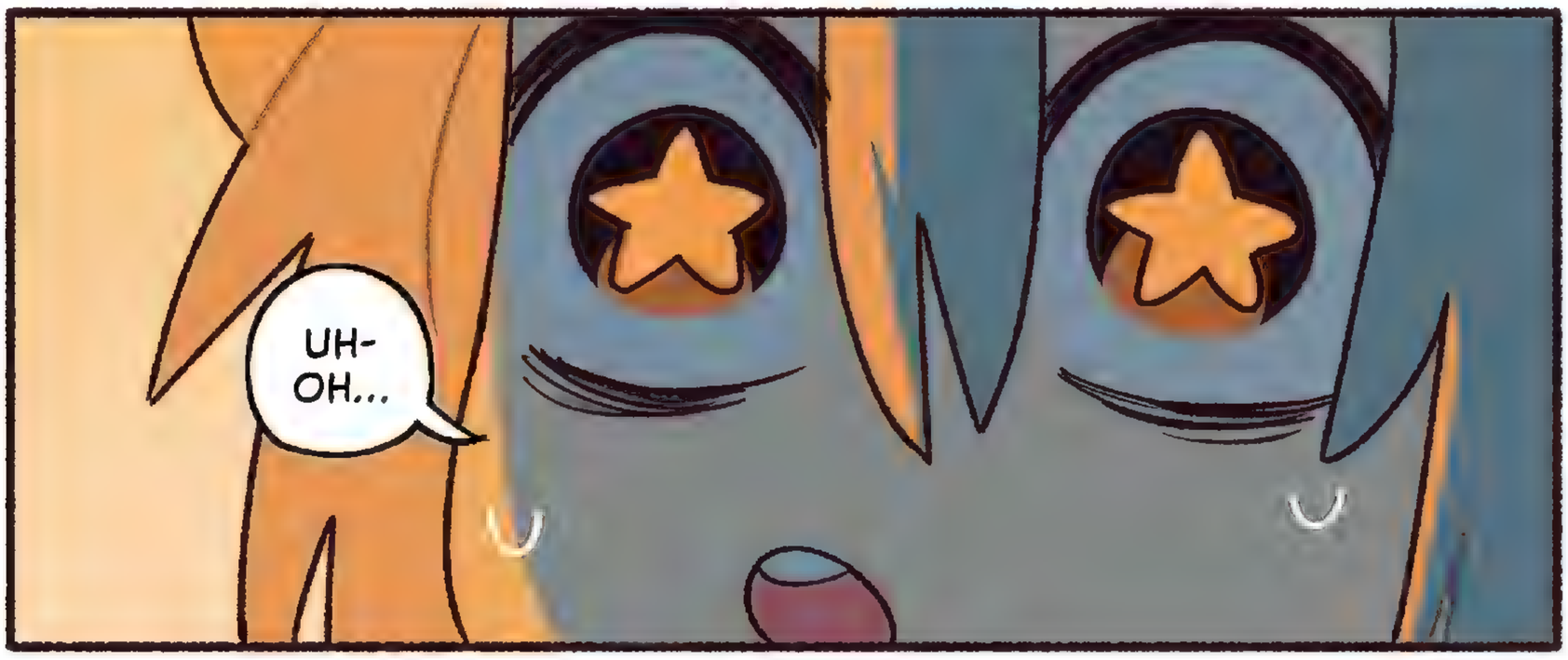
PUH-LEEZ, LOOK AT Y'ALL...

ROOAAAARR

COULD IT BE...?

DANGER! SO MUCH DANGER!

DANGER! SO MUCH DANGER!


UH-
OH...

CRASH

HUH?

WHAT WAS...

12:35

...THAT?

IT CAME FROM THE LIVING ROOM.

SHIT.

OK...

...SURELY IT WAS A PIGEON OR A CONFUSED POSSUM.

NO WAY. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A PERSON TO SNEAK ALL THE WAY UP TO A FIFTH-FLOOR BALCONY.

WELL THEN, IF THAT'S RULED OUT...

WHAT IF IT'S AN INTRUDER?

IT'S SURELY AN ANIMAL!

AAAAAH!

SHOO, SHOO!

GET OUTTA HERE!

BEFORE I...

WHAT...

...THE...

GULP

TAP

HEY...

TAP

TAP

COULD YOU LEAVE MY LIVING ROOM?

IT'S JUST... I'VE GOT PAGES TO FINISH...

PLOP

HEY, YOU! WHATEVER YOU ARE...

...IF YOU RETURN BY FOUR...

...I COULD TAKE A COFFEE BREAK...

HUMPH

SIGH

UH, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HUMPH

NEED SOME HELP?

HMMM...

FINE...

LET ME HELP YOU...

BUT...TRY NOT TO EAT ME, PLEASE.

ON THREE, OK?

STRETCH!!!

ONE...

...TWO...

OUCH!

PLOP

WHAT...

...THE HELL ARE YOU?

TAP

HUH?

HURRY
HELP
STEP 1
2
HELP

WHOA...

HOW CAN YOU DO THAT?

HOW *DID* YOU DO IT?!

OH YEAH, YOU NEED HELP!

Maya's kitchen.

THAT...

WASN'T EXPECTING VISITORS, SORRY.

WAIT HERE A MOMENT WHILE I FETCH YOU A BETTER CONTAINER.

NOTHING OVER HERE.

THIS COULD WORK.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? PLENTY OF ROOM FOR WATER...

WHAT?

YOU'RE A GIANT EYE, ALL RIGHT.

NO SENSE DEPRIVING YOU OF A FULL VIEW.

BUT I THINK I GOT AN IDEA!

GIMME TEN MINUTES!

THERE'S A SHOP NEARBY. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

IF ANYBODY CALLS, TELL THEM...

BETTER IF YOU PRETEND NOT TO BE HOME!

BAM

HMM...

13:15

Bacoing
100% carnivorous restaurant.

BACOING

SHRIMP BURGER
11lb
100%

IT'S TIME, BUT SHE HASN'T SHOWN UP YET. SHE DUMPED ME! SEE? NO ONE WILL EVER LOVE ME. I WANT TO DIE :S

HI! YOU'RE JUU, RIGHT?

THAT'S ME, AL--

WOW!

I MEAN...

IF I'M JUU, YOU MUST BE...

PUH... PAM!

NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU IN PERSON!

SO CUTE!

CHECK THIS PLACE OUT! DO YOU LIKE IT? THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A COOL PLACE TO EAT...

BACOING

NEVER BEEN, BUT IT LOOKS NICE.

DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?

NO, NO WAY.

I'M A VEGETARIAN, SO BURGERS AREN'T REALLY MY THING.

HOLD ON.

TAXI

YOU DON'T EAT MEAT AND YET YOU'VE SUGGESTED THIS PLACE?

WELL...

ANIMA
Pet Shop

HM...

I THINK...
ALMOST...
KINDA...

CAN I
HELP YOU?

ACK!

I NEED A FISHBOWL ABOUT *YEA* BIG.

IS IT FOR FISH? SOME SORT OF CRUSTACEAN?

IT'S FOR A...

...A...

AAAH...

IT'S FOR A JELLYFISH--A BIG ONE! A LION'S MANE JELLYFISH.

A STRANGE SPECIES.

RIGHT... FROM THE ARCTIC.

YOU SHOULD TAKE *THAT* ONE.

THAI MA

CLICK

BEEP BEEP

HELLOOOO, WHAT'S GOING ON?

MOM, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE HAD FISH?

FISH? SURE, YOU WERE QUITE DEMANDING WITH THOSE CREATURES.

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, NUTJOB!

WHAT DID THEY EAT? DID WE FEED THEM ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR?

ANY SCRAPS, REALLY.

FOOD WASN'T THE MOST IMPORTANT, BUT THE AMOUNT OF SALT IN THE WATER WAS CRUCIAL.

OHHH, THAT MIGHT BE IT.

HANGING UP NOW, MOM, THANKS.

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME WH--

BEEP

BACON!!

I USED TO LIKE HER CONTENT A LOT AND HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING HER FOR OVER TWO YEARS, BUT I DON'T GET WHY ALL SHE DOES THESE DAYS IS ADS AND PROMOS. HAVE YOU SEEN HER LATEST? FOR THOSE SWIMSUITS?

I DON'T THINK I HAVE...

YOU HAVEN'T?! IT'S GONE VIRAL EVERYWHERE.

AT FIRST, SHE'S DANCING ON A YACHT...

...AND THEN SHE DANCES ON THE BEACH, AT THE POOL, GARDEN, AND SO ON.

COME ON, YOU'RE BEING CUTE. KIND OF ODD, BUT IN A FUNNY WAY.

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS...

WHAT ELSE DO YOU LIKE TO DO, OTHER THAN FOLLOW INFLUENCERS?

WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?

OH, NOTHING AT ALL. I'D JUST LIKE TO KNOW WHAT ELSE YOU ARE INTO...I DON'T KNOW. FOR INSTANCE, TOMORROW I'M GETTING BREAKFAST WITH MY FRIEND MAYA.

AND WHAT DOES ***THAT*** MEAN? ARE YOU TELLING ME, RIGHT OFF THE BAT ON OUR FIRST DATE, THAT YOU'RE SEEING OTHER GIRLS?

HEY, YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M SHOOTING THE ROPE WITH AN ARROW TO DROP THE GATE AND BLOCK THE ENTRANCE.

HMMM... FINE, BUT DO A SKILL ROLL FIRST.

SWEET!

WITH THE ORCS ON FAST APPROACH, YOU QUICKLY PULL AN ARROW FROM YOUR QUIVER.

YOU DRAW BACK, AIM, AND SHOOT THE ARROW, CUTTING STRAIGHT THROUGH THE ROPE, RELEASING THE GATE.

14:10

LIFE

THE GATE FALLS, CUTTING ONE OF THE ORCS IN HALF.

WOW, THAT'S GOTTA HURT.

BUT SUDDENLY...!

GEEZ, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING...

BUT SUDDENLY!

UP IN THE SKY!

SOME-THING NO ONE HAD EVER SEEN!

DRAGONS!

WE ARE LITERALLY PLAYING D&D...

HOW CAN YOU THINK NO ONE HAD EVER SEEN A ***DRAGON?***

FIRST IT'S BUT A PASSING SHADOW!

THEN A THUNDERING NOISE!

AND EVERYBODY LIFTS THEIR GAZE TO THE SKY!

HUMANS! ELVES! EVERYBODY!!!

NOBODY KNOWS WHAT IT IS THEY ARE SEEING, BUT EVERYONE SEES IT.

A FLYING SAUCER *FROM OUTER SPACE!*

PFF...

HAHAHA!

C'MON GIRL, YOU'RE TOTALLY OFF THE RAILS!

WHA DO YOU MEAN? IT IS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE!

THIS IS A *MEDIEVAL FANTASY...*

AND? THEY COULD BE, LIKE, THE ANCIENT ALIENS THAT BUILT THE PYRAMIDS!

WELL, IF WE WANTED TO PLAY SOMETHING SCI-FI, WE WOULD HAVE BROUGHT A *ROBOTS AND STARSHIPS* CORE SET, DON'T YOU THINK?

YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS QUESTIONING MY LEAD!

YOU KNOW WHAT?

I'M OUTTA HERE. FIND YOURSELVES A NEW DM.

THE ALIEN INVASION PLOT IS WONDERFUL AND COULD WORK IN ANY GIVEN ERA.

THIS IS FANTASYYYY!

SO WHAT?

IF ALIENS COULD VISIT *OUR WORLD,* WHY WOULDN'T THEY VISIT ANY OTHER?

TAP

TAP

TAP

NO, NO, NO! HE'S DEAD.

HEY, STILL BREATH-IN'?

PLOP

OK, WE KNEW THIS COULD HAPPEN.

HE SEEMS...

...SQUISHY.

TAP

TAP

DRIP

SO GROSS!

I'M GONNA PUKE.

ACK, THIS WILL HAVE TO DO.

FISH food

C'MON, YOU GOTTA EAT SOME-THING.

YOU'RE INJURED AND NEED ENER...

...GY.

POP

OK, NO DICE.

WELL, MAYBE...

SEA SALT

WATER CREATURES NEED SALT, RIGHT?

BLOB

BLOB BLOB BLOB

WHOA! YOU'RE BACK!

SSSSS

OH NO!

THIS HAS BEEN A ROUGH DAY FOR BOTH OF US.

Flop

THIS AGAIN?

TRY TO BE CLEARER THIS TIME, PLEASE.

I'M TERRIBLE AT METAPHORS.

tap

THIS IS SO FAST!

AH, HERE YOU ARE.

WHOA.

WHAT THE...?

HEY...

THIS ISN'T REAL... RIGHT?

RIGHT?

HELLO?

WHOOOOSH

THINGS ARE HEATING UP, PAL.

YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD REALLY TURN UP THE TEMPERATURE?

THWACK

POW

A GOOD LEG WORK-OUT!

OH...

SWING

MAYA...

TAP

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP.

I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE JUST ONE STORY ARC, TWO AT MOST, BUT I'VE LOST COUNT, AND THEY'RE ALL ALIKE.

SOME KAIJU MONSTER POPS UP, I KICK ITS BUTT, MAKE A FEW JOKES, AND THAT'S IT.

I'M TIRED OF IT ALL. YOU ALWAYS SAY YOU WANT TO TELL A MORE TRUE-TO-LIFE STORY, NOT HEROES SAVING THE DAY OVER AND OVER.

WELL, DO IT ALREADY!

IT'S UP TO YOU.

WOULD YOU CUT IT OUT?!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I GOT THE MESSAGE!

SQUIRT

ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING?

WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?

OH NO...

15:15

ACK...
ACK...
NO...NO...
THIS...

CAN'T BE. IT CAN'T BE. IT ISN'T REAL, I'VE JUST GONE MAD...

IT'S BURNOUT. I CAN'T WORK FOR SO MANY HOURS STRAIGHT. I'VE GOTTA CHANGE MY LIFE, LOOK FOR A JOB AS A STORE CLERK OR IN MANUFACTURING.

THAT'S IT, MAKING CUTE THINGS LIKE COLORED PENCILS, STUFFED ANIMALS, OR ACTION FIGURES FOR NOSTALGIC FORTY-SOMETHING-YEAR-OLDS...

HANNK!

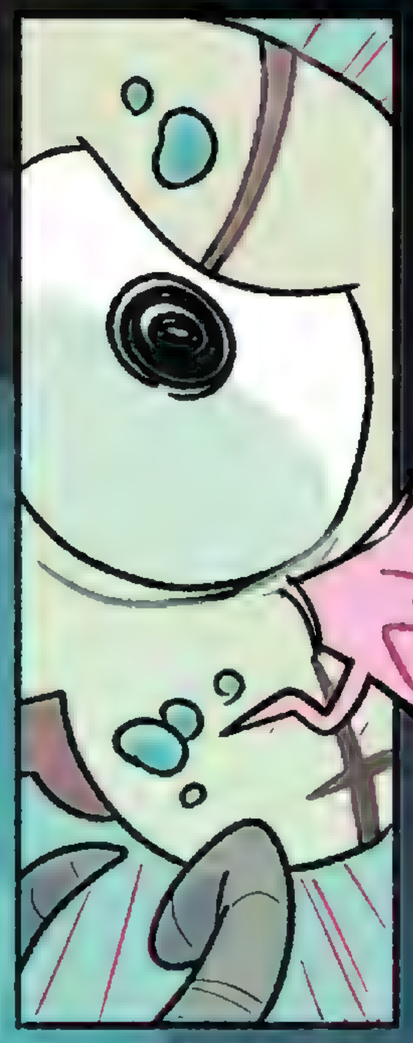
YOU CAN... YELL?

TAP

NOT AGAIN...

zzz

ohhh!



THIS HAPPENED A WHILE AGO. WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A YEAR.

HUH?

SINCE WHEN CAN YOU SPEAK...SO WELL?

IT IS OUR BOND...AS IT GROWS, OUR COMMUNICATION IMPROVES.

I JUST WANTED TO DRAW COMICS...

WE WERE SENT TO EARTH TO STUDY YOUR ECOSYSTEM. WE NEEDED SALVATION.

SALVATION FROM WHAT?

OUR INDUSTRY DAMAGED THE ENVIRONMENT TO A POINT OF NO RETURN.

WE NEEDED WATER. FRESH, CLEAN WATER.

SO THAT'S WHAT THE INVASION IS ABOUT. YOU'RE HERE FOR THE WATER.

YES. AND NO.

OUR LEADERS DO NOT BELIEVE IN TRADE AGREEMENTS, NOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS.

I SEE...

PLOP

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO STOP IT FOR A YEAR, TO NO AVAIL.

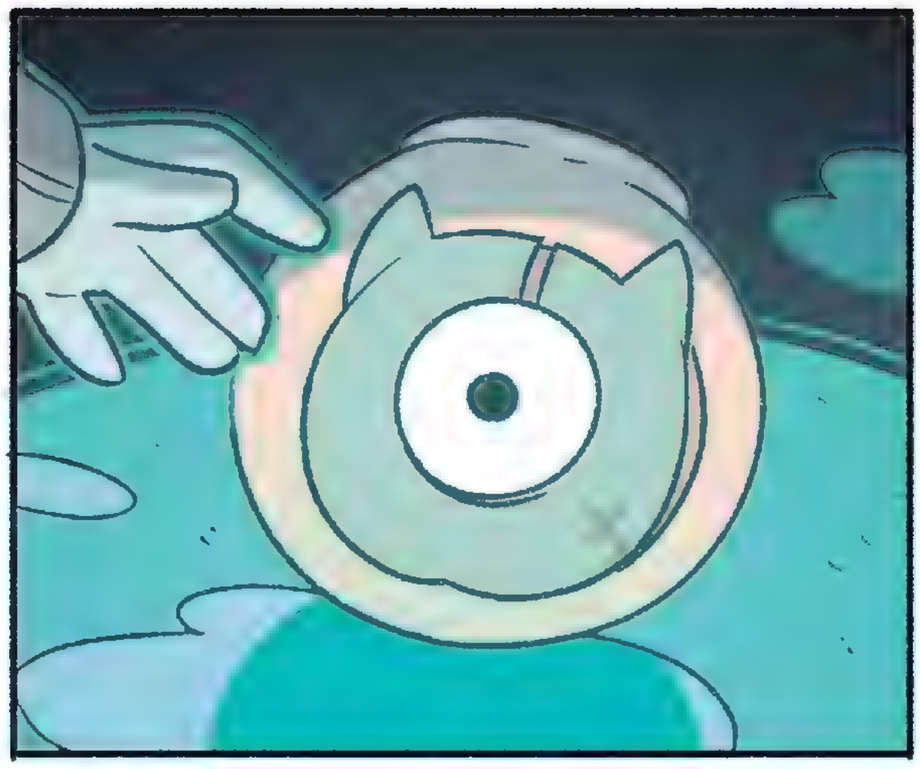
IF I MANAGE TO GET INTO THE MOTHERSHIP, WE MAY HAVE A CHANCE.

BUT I CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

LET ME HELP YOU.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS, BUT IF I DON'T DO IT, WE ALL DIE.

AND IF WE DO SAVE THE WORLD, MY COMICS WILL SELL LIKE *CHURROS*.



IN MY WORLD, WE SHAKE HANDS TO SEAL A DEAL.

WHAT I DON'T QUITE GET IS WHY THE GUY DIDN'T JUST TELL HER HE WAS GOING TO LEAVE WITH ANOTHER GIRL.

I JUST FIND IT APPALLING.

BECAUSE IT WOULD THEN BE SUPER AWKWARD IF THEY BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER PLAYING *KINGDOM OF RATS* AND BARELY INTERACTED WITH OTHER PLAYERS.

WAIT, ARE YOU INTO *KOR?!*

WELL, I'M KIND OF TERRIBLE AT IT, BUT I LOVE TO MINGLE WITH PEOPLE AND WHAT NOT.

DO **YOU** PLAY?

YOU'RE TALKING TO BALDROR.

SAMURAI RAT OF THE GRAY FUR CLAN, AND LEVEL 64--ALMOST 65.

I KNOW, IMPRESSIVE.

BEHI... NND...GAH...

NAH, IT'S NOTHING FAN...

'SSUP?

OH MY...

WHAT IS...

THAT?

PUHT... PAM?!

HUH?

VROOM

CRASH

THAT WAY SEEMS TOO RISKY.

BUMP

ACK.

AS SOON AS WE GET SOME QUIET TIME, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL ME WHAT THE PLAN TO GET TO THE MOTHERSHIP IS AMID THIS MESS.

TRASH

WELL...I'M AFRAID THAT ISN'T THE RIGHT WAY EITHER.

OK, WE GOT THIS.

BOOM

SEE? NOBODY'S HERE.

NO ONE WOULD WANT TO TREAD THIS STINKING ALLEY.

AAAAAH!

SQUEAK

I DON'T LIKE THOSE VERMIN ONE BIT.

THEY SPEND ALL DAY RUMMAGING THROUGH THE TRASH.

SEE? I'M SURE IT'S FULL OF...

BRR BAR

SWOOSH

...RATS...

SHIT.

GHAAACK

TIME TO RUN!

DON'T WORRY, I WAS ON MY HIGH SCHOOL TRACK TEAM.

OH...

BOOM

WOOOSH

THUMP

SIGH

SIGH

I NEED TO...

...QUIT SMOKING.

HAANK

NOW WHAT?!

RAM

OOOF!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?!

MAIN ST.

WHAT-EVER YOU SAY.

BAAM

BUT...

...I THINK WE NEED A SHORTCUT!

HOP

VROOF

UGH...

L... LISTEN.

WE'RE GONNA DIE.

I'M SO SORRY...

...CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE.

VROOM

SHHHH

I'M BEAT.

NEED A SMOKE ***AND*** MY INHALER.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

DAYYYYMN

I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER UP MY ASS OR I'M THE UNLUCKIEST PERSON ON THE PLANET.

PLOP

HYPERMARKET

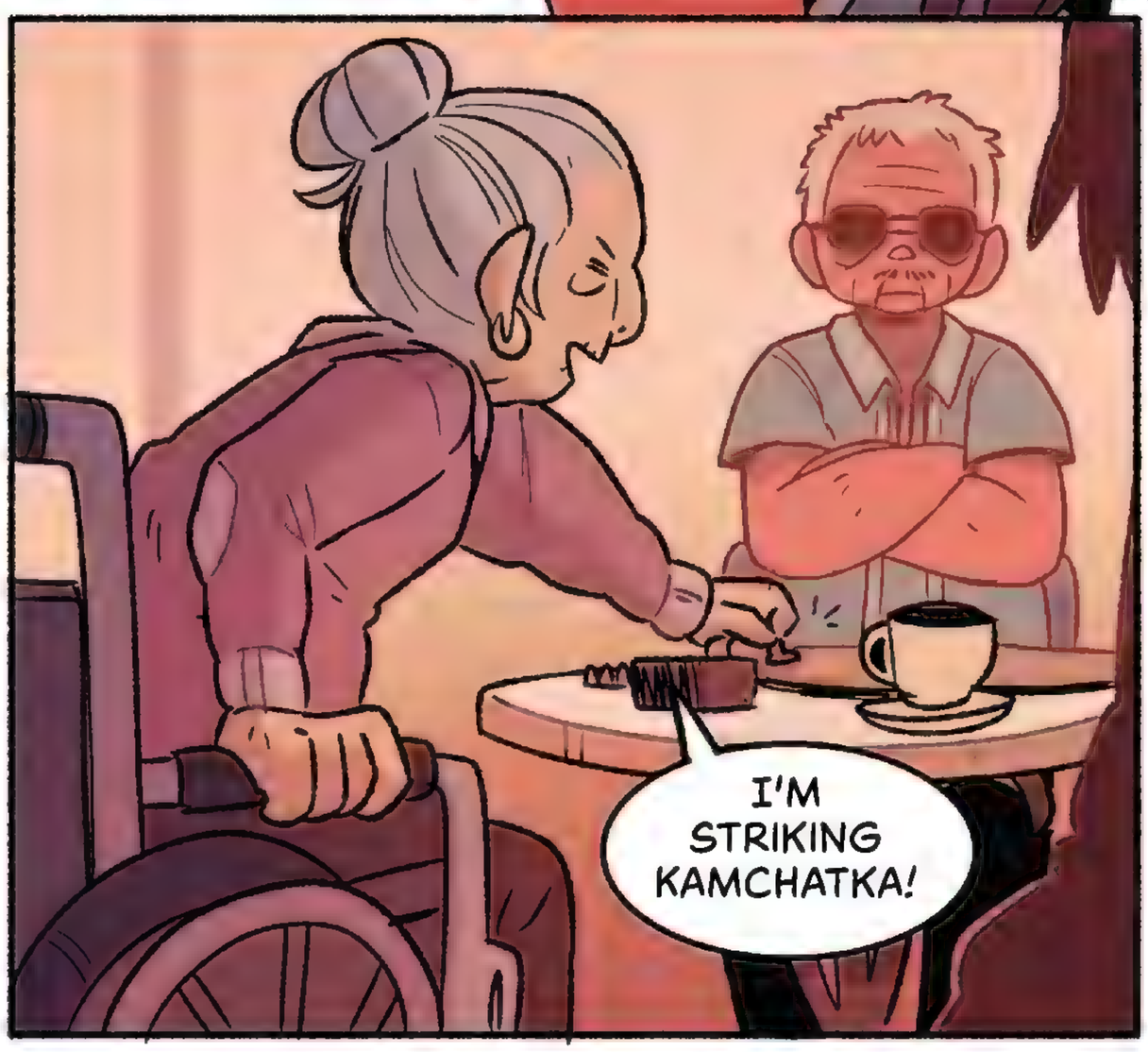
THE MARKET?

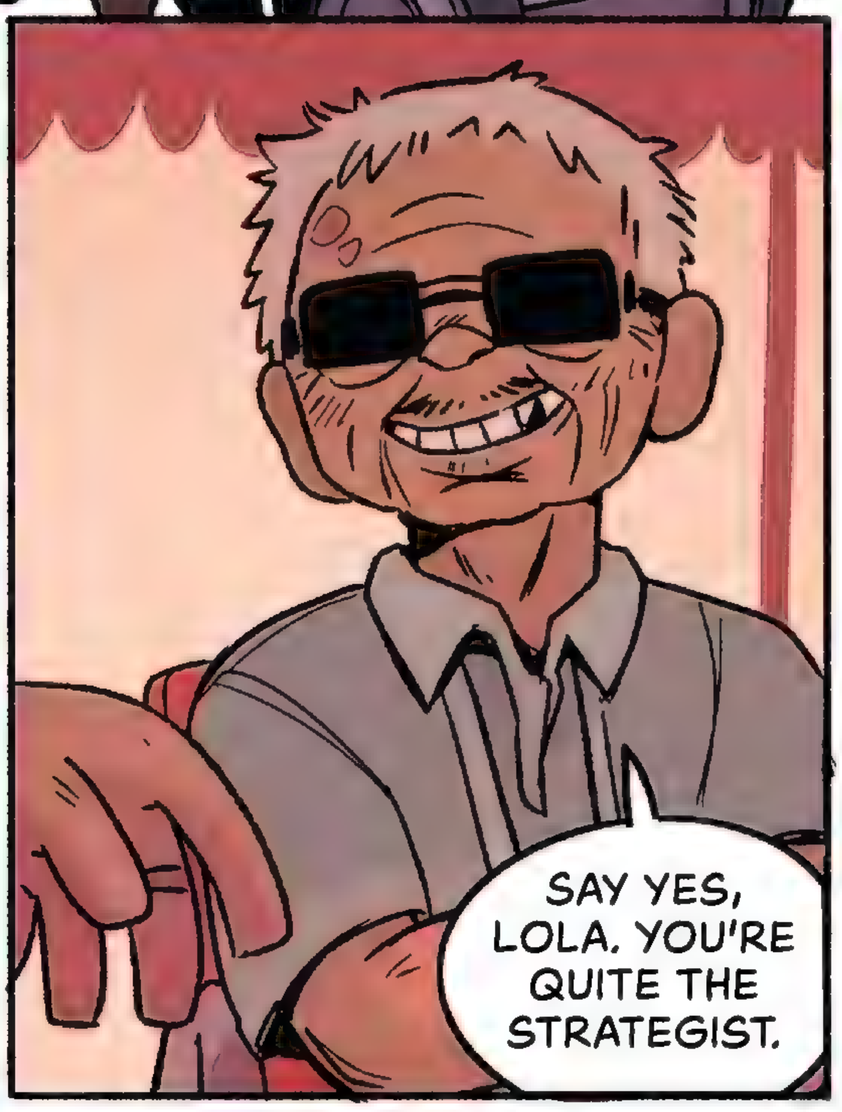
HISSS

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLOSED
15:55

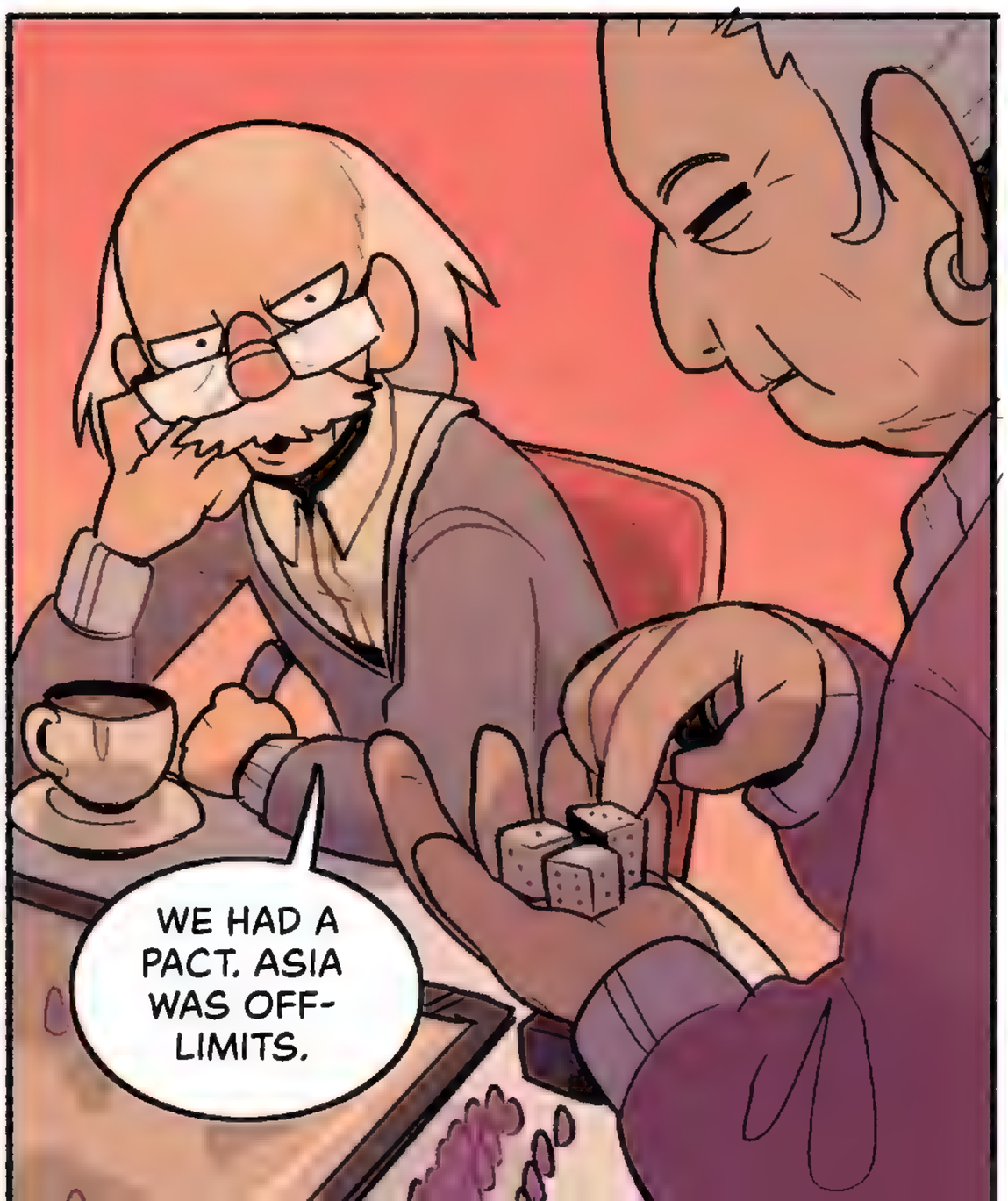
FRY
SAT
SUN

IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL RUIN THE SET. WE'LL BE PLAYING AN ADDITIONAL SIX TO SEVEN HOURS.


I'M STRIKING KAMCHATKA!


SAY YES, LOLA. YOU'RE QUITE THE STRATEGIST.

LEAVE HER BE FOR ONCE.


WE HAD A PACT. ASIA WAS OFF-LIMITS.

WELL, NOT ANYMORE. WE'VE BEEN PLAYING THIS GAME FOR THIRTY YEARS.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD--

SHOULD WHAT?

TRIPLE SIX!

QUIT WHINING EVERY TIME YOU'RE UNDER ATTACK!

I DON'T LIKE THIS GAME ANYMORE!

HEY, WILL NO ONE GO FOR DRINKS?

MOMMA NEEDS HER IRISH COFFEE!

BZZZ

WHO'S...

BZZZZZ

BZZ BZZZ

CALLING NOW?

BZZ

TAP TAP

BZZZZZ...

...OUCH.

DYING IN A BURGER JOINT AS A VEGAN IS A TRAVESTY.

HOLD ON...

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

I SAW A LIGHT, AND THEN THIS...

WHERE ARE THE POLICE?

I THINK I'M DREAMING.

THAT MUST BE IT.

THE STRESS FROM THE DATE MADE ME PASS OUT.

SURELY PAM THINKS I'M PATHETIC.

ALTHOUGH SHE WASN'T SO...

...COOL...

...HERSELF.

YIKES.

GET OUT OF THERE, YOU NUMSKULL!

PANG

MOVE IT, KID!

IT WILL SQUASH YOU!

TURN

GASP

GASP

THANK YOU.

YOU'RE WELCOME. BETTER COME WITH US IF YOU WANT TO LIVE.

COME ON, IT'S JUST A LITTLE EXTRA EFFORT.

WE NEED TO GET TO THE ALLEY.

H...HI, I'M...

LATER, WE NEED TO RUN FOR IT.

LOOKS LIKE THE CREATURE IS DISTRACTED.

YOU HEARD HER. IT'S A RACE, AND THEN WE'LL GET SOME REST.

SNIF

OK, BUT YOU GO AHEAD.

AHEM

VERY WELL, LET'S GO.

WE RUN IN COUPLES. FIRST YOU TWO, AND THEN US.

YOU GO INTO THE ALLEY, CHECK IF IT'S CLEAR, AND SIGNAL US, OK?

HM...

CRASH

NewsStand

BAM BAM

BAM

HANNAH!

CLANK

VI...
VIC...

NO!

ERRR...

HOLD ON!

CRA

ARE YOU OK?

HISS

BAM

HRUM

WHAT'S UP? FEEL LIKE PARTYING?

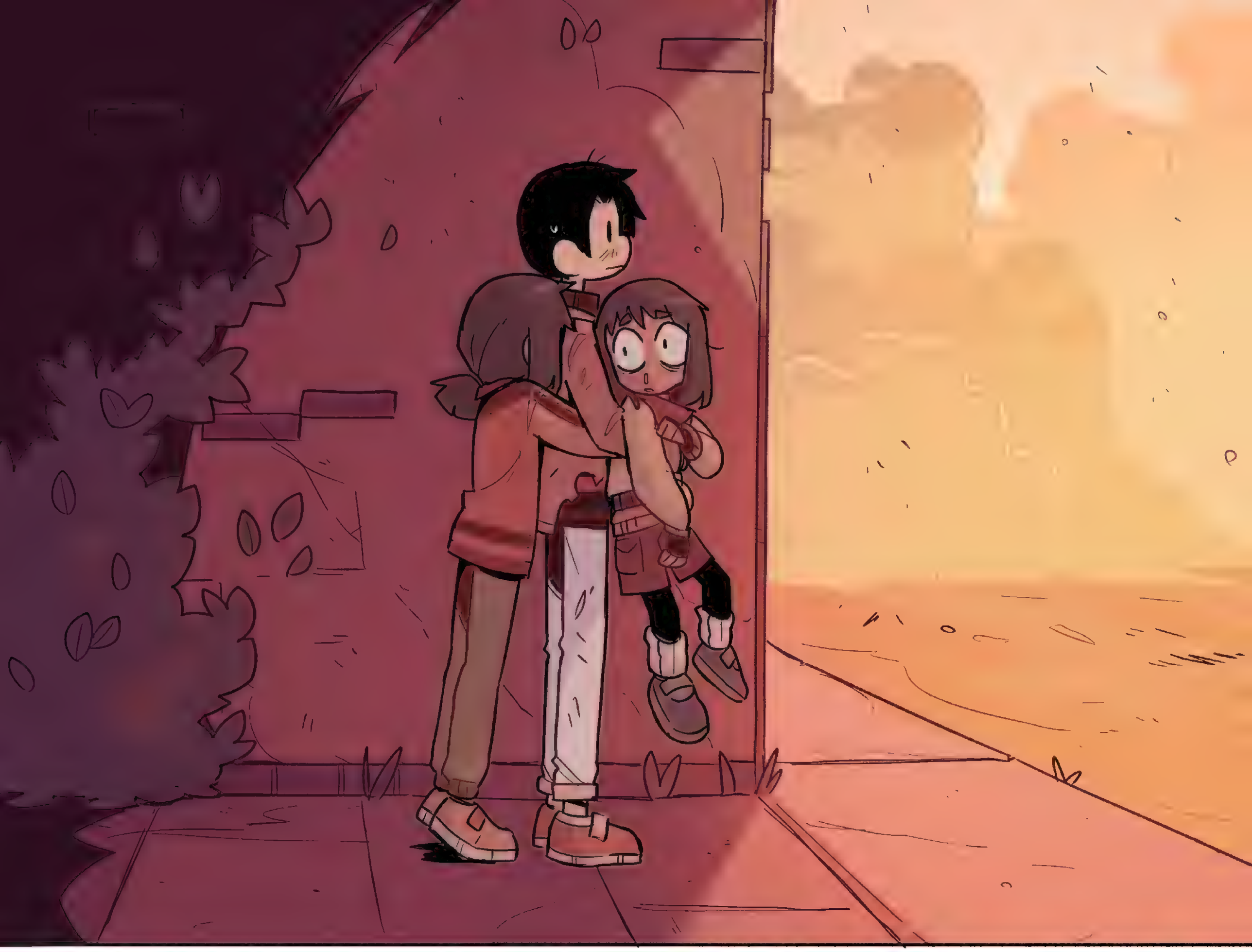
HIDE!!!

I'LL FIND YOU LATER!

I THINK SHE MAY HAVE SEEN TOO MANY ACTION MOVIES.

TOTALLY.

HUG



SO...

ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN STAND NOW.

MY...MY NAME IS JUU.

. . .

WE ARE HANNAH AND VIC.

THANK YOU SO, SO MUCH.

VIC?

ER...AH... THANK YOU, SIR!

WELL, I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW I MUSTERED THE COURAGE...

BUT NO NEED TO CALL ME "SIR."

WE SHOULD FIND SHELTER.

HMMM...

MAYBE SOMETHING LESS BLEAK THAN THIS.

I THINK I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

WHY DO PEOPLE HOARD TOILET PAPER EVERY TIME THINGS GO SOUTH?

HEY, FRANK, ISN'T THAT ONE OF THE CREATURES TEARING EVERYTHING APART?

I DON'T KNOW...

LOOKS AN AWFUL LOT LIKE A LION'S MANE JELLYFISH.

EITHER WE FIND A LID FOR YOUR BOWL, OR WE GRAB MORE WATER.

GLU

GLU

WE SHOULD LOOK FOR WEAPONS OF SOME SORT. IF YOUR PEOPLE HAVE THOSE TRIPODS WITH DEATH RAYS...

WHAT DO WE HAVE?

WAIT...

SALT

HMMM...

GULP

GULP

GULP

NO, RELAX. USE YOUR TENTACLE THINGY...

PLOP

WE SHOULD TRY SALT.

WE MIGHT GIVE 'EM QUITE A LESSON.

YES, THAT COULD WORK, BUT...

YES, I KNOW IT IS HORRIBLE CRUELTY, TERRIBLE TORTURE AND ALL THAT, BUT THEY'RE DESTROYING THE CITY! I MAY GO OUT LESS THAN VAMPIRES AT NOON, BUT I LIKE MY NEIGHBORHOOD, AND I'M SURE I'D MEET GOOD PEOPLE IF I DID LEAVE THE HOUSE MORE.

THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU MEANT.

NO.

OK.

CLACK!

V-03

IN ORDER TO LAUNCH ANY ATTACK, WE NEED A TRIPOD. WITHOUT IT, ALL WE CAN DO IS RUN AND HIDE.

WELL, IT'S WORKED SO FAR.

MY SUIT IS BROKEN, BUT...

BUT WHAT?

CLACK!

ACK.

CRASH

WE CAN'T GO THAT WAY.

WHAT IF WE TURN AROUND?

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

WE NEED TO CROSS OVER THERE.

WHAT'S OVER THERE?

A SUBWAY STATION.

SUBWAY

I THINK THE TRIPODS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO OPERATE IN CLOSE SPACES.

BESIDES, WE COULD USE THE TRACKS TO MOVE ABOUT TOWN, AND THE CARTS AS REFUGE.

WOW.

THAT IS A *TERRIFIC* IDEA!

LOOK, HANNAH. I THINK HE HAS A FEVER.

OH NO, NO WAY!

WELL, LET'S GO!

SUBWAY ADVENTURE!

SORRY.

17:01

SCATTER

CLEAN

PFFFT

SALT BAGS

MADE WITH NAPKINS AND RUBBER BANDS (EXTREMELY FRAGILE!)

DISHWASHER BOTTLES

GENERIC BRAND (SUPER SLIPPERY!)

I'M GOING TO CHANGE MY ART STYLE...

THAT IS, IF WE SURVIVE...

...ALL THIS.

I'LL GET INTO WATER-COLORS.

NEED SOMETHING THAT RELAXES ME A LITTLE.

AND NOT JUST OVER THIS DOOMSDAY SCENARIO.

ALL THIS WORK MAKES ME ANXIOUS, AND JUU ALWAYS SAYS I NEED TO CHANGE STUFF IF I WANT TO FEEL BETTER.

ROOM

LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME.

COME ON, COME ON, COME ***OOOON!***

HEY, DADDY LONGLEGS!

WANNA DANCE?

SMACK

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, CREEP? CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU WITH ALL THAT SLOBBER.

WHY DON'T YOU GET A LITTLE CLOSER?

THUMP

CRACK

IT TOOK THE BAIT, HOPE THIS WORKS.

BURST

SLIP

BAM

IT WORKED!

SHHHHH

OUCH.

SHHHHHH

THAT WAS DISAPPOINTING.

HEY...

YOU NEED TO GROWL LIKE CRAZY, YOU HEAR?

TRUMBLE

THINK OF SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU FURIOUS. I DUNNO, PEOPLE CUTTING IN LINE AT THE SUPERMARKET, OR EATING POACHED ALMONDS.

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.

TAP

READY...

HUH...

HONESTLY, THIS IS EMBARRASSING.

SLIP!

BUT LET'S GET ON WITH IT.

HOP

GO!

FLIP

HAAAAAK

CLING
CLING
CLING
OH, THIS?
CLING
CLING
COME ON!
PLOP

BAM

TAKE *THAT!*

TAP TAP TAP TAP

TAP TAP

TAP

AAAAAAH

CRACK

PANT

I...I...

PANT

GASP

SERIOUSLY NEED TO QUIT SMOKING.

GRACK

OH, NOW YOU'VE REALLY PISSED ME OFF.

I JUST...

BAM

...WANTED...

BAM

...TO DELIVER THE COMIC...

BAM

...ON TIME!!!

CRASH

CLOD

DRIP

SPLASH

PLOF

GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

PLOF

PLOF

AAA

PAT

DRIP

DRIP

WOW.

PAT
PAT
SLIP
I THINK TH...
ER, NOPE.
CHOP
OH.
THAT WAS WAY MORE DISGUSTING THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
HEY...
...WANNA GO FOR A RIDE?

ACTION

1P

CO-OP

1993 POMPENDO

×3

HOMESHO

HI, THE NAME'S MAYA, THOUGH I SWEAR I'VE TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE.

×3

GO!

DON'T BLAME ME, ALL I COULD THINK OF THIS MORNING WAS FINISHING A COMIC AND CONVINCING JUU HE'S NICE ENOUGH TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.

×3

LAUND

AND NOW, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M RIDING A FRIKKIN' TRIPOD WITH AN ALIEN STRAPPED TO MY HEAD, TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO ME HOW IT WORKS...

×3

LAUNDRY

GO!

...SO WE CAN INFILTRATE ITS MOTHERSHIP AND BLOW IT TO KINGDOM COME.

'N STUFF

×3

BUT IN ORDER TO DO THAT...

×3

...YOU WANNA UNPLUG THIS PSYCHIC PROJECTION...*THING* AND LET ME DRIVE THE REGULAR WAY?!

SNAP

THANKS. IT WAS A BIT OVER-WHELMING.

IF YOU PREFER IT SO, THAT'S BETTER FOR THE BOTH OF US.

I WAS JUST TRYING TO GIVE YOU A MORE COMFORTABLE EXPERIENCE.

HEY, YOU'RE SPEAKING WELL, EVEN OUT HERE.

WELL, OUR LINK IS ALMOST COMPLETE.

WONDERFUL, LET'S BOOGIE.

ACK!

BUMP

EASY--MY MISTAKE, MY MISTAKE.

I GOT THIS.

JAVA, JAVA, RAGNARA.

17:70

JAVA, JAVA, RAGNARA.

School of MAPIMASS

JAVA, JAVA, RAGNARA.

JAVA, JAVA, RAGNARA.

JAVA, JA...

SLAP

JAVA, JAVA, RAGNARA.

=COUGH=

THE PROPHECY HAS BEEN FULFILLED!

THE LORDS FROM JAVA HAVE COME TO TAKE US WITH THEM THROUGH A PAINFUL AND PURIFYING DEATH!

THAT PART HAS NEVER BEEN CLEAR TO ME.

HOW'S PAIN SUPPOSED TO PURIFY US?

HAHAHA! WE'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH.

EVERYTHING I PREDICTED IS COMING TO FRUITION, POINT BY POINT.

ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE TRUTHFULLY SERVED THE HIGH PRIEST WILL GET THEIR TICKET TO THE STARS.

BEHOLD OUR SAVIORS!

WE PLEDGE OUR SOUL, OUR HEART, AND EVERY PART OF OUR BODIES!

WELL, NOT *EVERY* PART...

TEE-HEE!

RESPOND TO MY CALLING!

FULFILL THE LONG REVERED PROPHECY...

...RIGHT NOW!

NOW!

CRASH

BOOM

THEY'RE NOT LISTENING TO US.

ARE WE SURE THESE ARE THE LORDS OF JAVA?

LOOK, IF WE'RE NOT LEAVING ALREADY, I'D RATHER HEAD BACK TO TOWN.

GRAB

FORGIVE ME, HIGH PRIEST.

I...

IS IT POSSIBLE WE MAY HAVE ERRED?

I...DON'T KNOW.

WELL THEN, I THINK I'M GONNA...

School of HAPINE

WAIT FOR ME!

GRAB

I KNOW YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THE SMARTEST, DAN, BUT YOU'RE A GREAT SERVANT. ALWAYS HAVE BEEN!

THAT'S WHY I KNOW YOU'LL FIND IT FAIR TO GIVE A SMALL DONATION OF ALL YOUR ASSETS TO THE CAUSE.

OUR MESSAGE HAS TO REACH MORE PEOPLE!

CRACK

AND, OF COURSE, THE CHURCH NEEDS TO BE REBUI--

BRRMM

CLANG

WAIT FOR ME!

OK, HERE WE ARE.

SUBWAY D

EEK.

LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T BE SEEING MUCH DOWN THERE.

THIS IS EXACTLY HOW SCARY SCENES IN CRAPPY MOVIES BEGIN.

I'M NOT GOING.

WE'LL BE SAFER THAN OUT HERE.

THEN YOU GO FIRST!

OH, SO BRAVE.

I'VE BEEN SLEEPING WITH THE LIGHTS OFF FOR A MONTH!

"VIC THE BRAVE."

WHY DOESN'T *HE* GO DOWN?

ER...

HOLD ON.

ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK?

ABOUT THAT...

LOOK!

TAP

TAKING THE FIRST STEP ISN'T SO HARD.

HEY, IT'S TRUE!

O...OK.

LET'S GO.

THE MAIN THING IS WE CAN'T SPLIT UP.

HUH?

FREE...

...CASH?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ATM

OH...

ATM

...CRAP.

JUU!!!

LET GO OF MEEEEE!

HANNAH...

HANNAH?

LEAF FIM FEE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

HHHHH

IF YOU SHOOT, YOU'RE SHOOTING YOUR OWN LEG OFF.

SMART GUY.

OH, SO NOW YOU WANT TO GRAB ME WITH ONE LEG?

THAT MEANS YOU'RE STANDING ON ONE LAME LEG.

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING DOWN THERE?!

HADN'T YOU REALIZED THAT?

FLIP

BAM

OUCH!

JUU!!!

THUD

CLINK

QUICK, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.

JUU? HELLO?

THANKS...

LET'S GO!

Y...YES.

RUNNNN!!!

BOOM

CRASH

SNIII

HEY, ARE YOU BACK?

KIND OF...

WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE?

I...GOT MONEY ISSUES...

I'M A TELEMARKETER. DO YOU REALIZE HOW UNSTABLE THAT IS?

HEY, WHAT'S HAPPENING? ARE YOU TWO AN ITEM NOW?

YOU'RE SO ADORABLE.

NO WAY, I'M ALREADY IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP.

HUH?

WITH WHO? SURPRISE ME.

I'M COMMITTED TO LIVING MY LIFE TO THE FULLEST!

FINE, SOUNDED WAY COOLER IN MY MIND.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

I GUESS WE KEEP GOING!

YOU FIRST.

NOW!

HUH?

TAKE THAT!

THIS IS GETTING TOO EASY!

DUCK!

Y... YES!

NOW SPIN!

WOW!

BOOM

AND NOW...

BANG

DID YOU SEE THAT?

CRASH

BEGINNER'S LUCK.

HEY, DON'T BE MEAN!

OH... MY...

HEH!

LOOK! WE'RE GETTING CLOSE.

FROM UP THERE WE COULD LEAP TO THE MOTHERSHIP USING OUR BOOSTER ROCKETS.

ROCKETS?

I WILL HANDLE IT.

HUH...

BAM

OH NO.

BOOM

SNAP!

SHHHH

THAT WAS CLOSE...

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

OH, NOT MY BEANIE!

SQUISH

CRASH

RIP

SHAHHH HU

BOOOM

THUMP

COME ON, THAT WAS QUITE THE MOVE.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST... AN EXPLORER.

ALL OUR SPECIES KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT.

ALL RIGHT, FINE...

BUT THIS ISN'T AN ASSASSIN'S GYMNASTICS CONTEST EITHER.

WHATEVER YOU SAY.

SO DO WE JUST CLIMB NOW OR...?

GO AWAY!

AAH!

LEAVE US BE!

CL ACL

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

CAN'T YOU SEE?

THEY'RE TRAPPED.

OHH...

CLAM

DAM

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU MORONS?

CAN'T YOU SEE I'VE COME TO SAVE YOU?

B... BUT...

NO "BUTS"!

SCRAM!

AND THAT'S WHY I HATE KIDS.

TAP

TAP

TAP

KRUU

WHAT WAS THAT?

A WARNING.

THEY THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE QUICKER AND EASIER.

EASIER?

THEY ARE WARNING THE SOLDIERS.

IF RESISTANCE CONTINUES, THEY WILL LAUNCH A FINAL STRIKE.

WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?

YOU HAVE SOMETHING CALLED NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

UH...

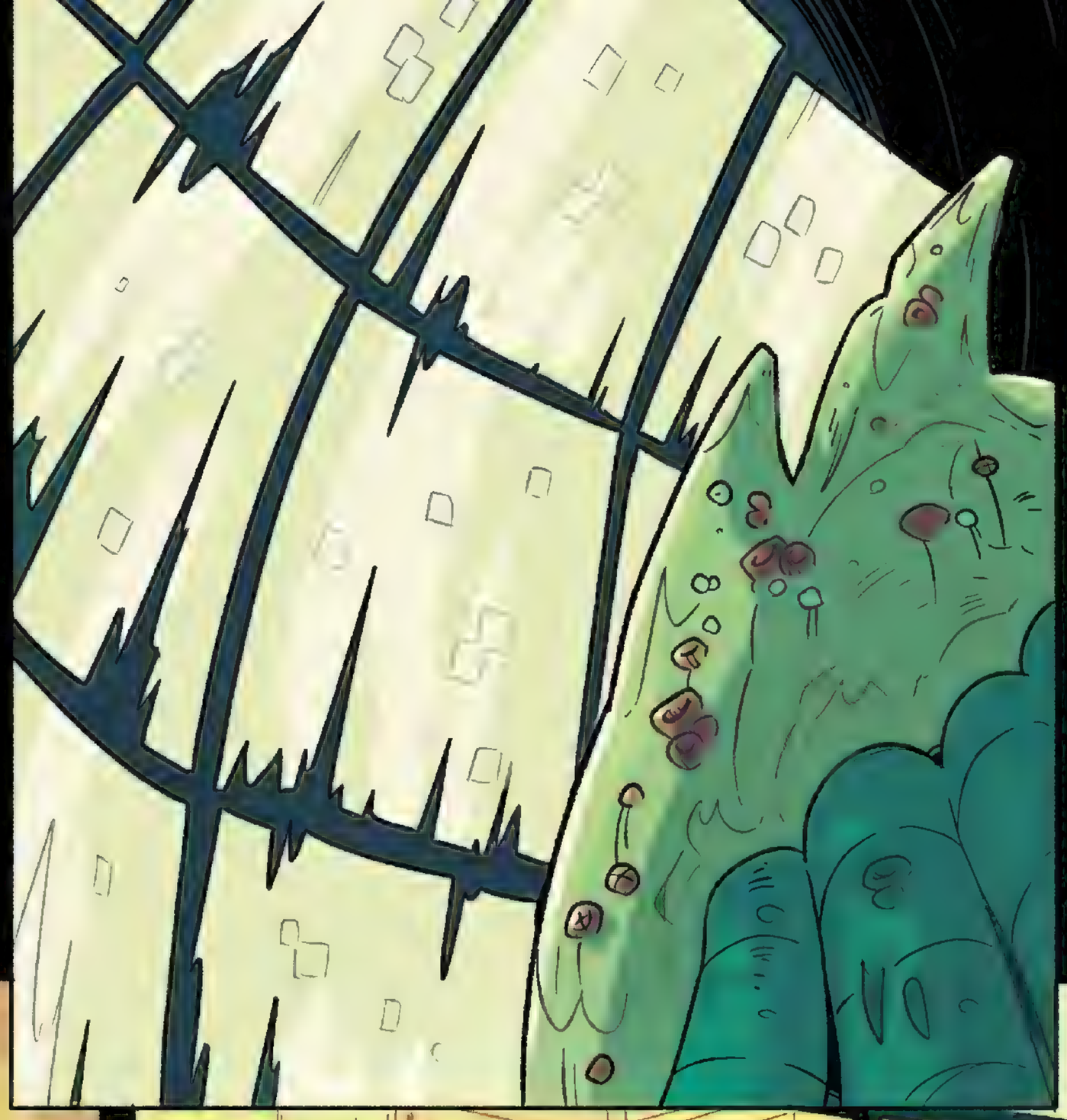
THIS IS WORSE. IF THE ALARM SOUNDS TWO MORE TIMES, IT WILL BE THE END.

GLV

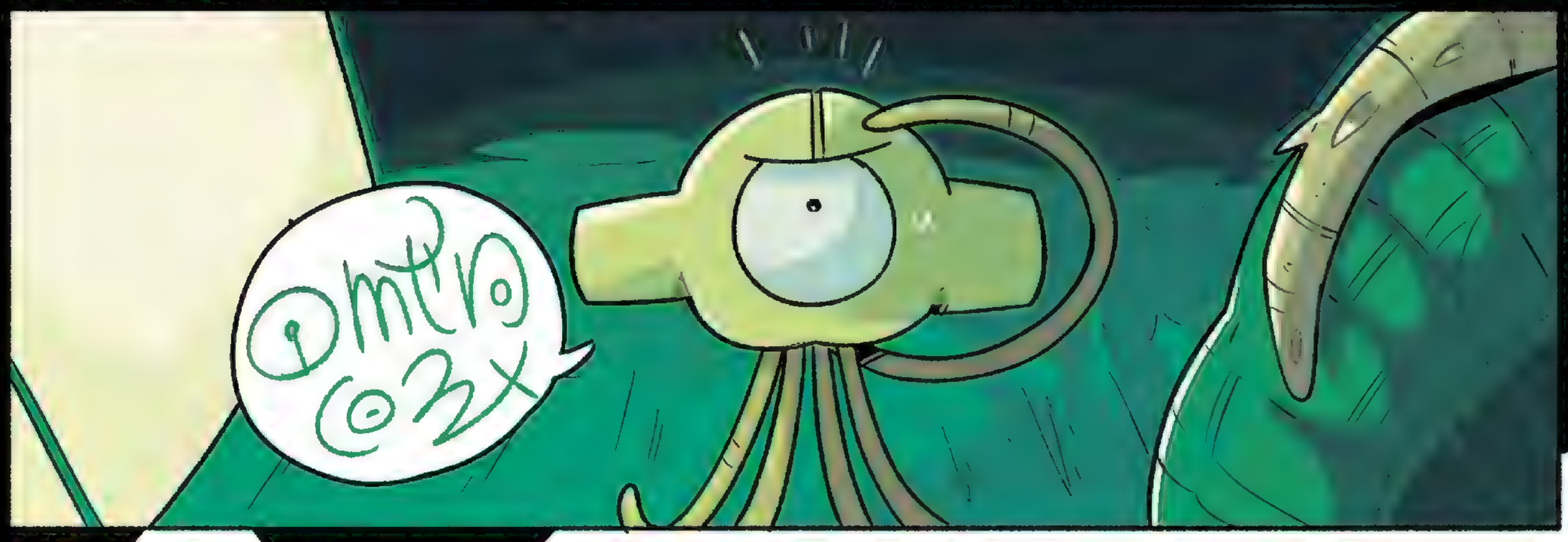
GLV

GLV

GLUP



DIE ALEX


CRASH

AND HERE WE GO

ALMOST...

THERE.

I...AM SORRY.

SO VERY SORRY.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WHY ARE YOU HELPING US?

IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...

A YEAR AGO, FOR YOUR KIND.

"AS SOON AS MY SHIP ENTERED EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, IT WENT OFF COURSE.

"ONE OF THE ENGINES CAUGHT FIRE...

"...AND I LOST CONTROL."

"I THOUGHT IT WAS THE END."

"FAR FROM MY SQUAD...

"...WOUNDED IN THE CRASH...

"...NO HOPE LEFT..."

"BUT THEN *SHE* SHOWED UP."

"ALL OUR PREVIOUS REPORTS SAID HUMANS WERE TERRIBLE BEINGS.

"NONE OF THEM MENTIONED THE GENEROSITY, WARMTH, AND SELFLESS LOVE OF WHICH YOUR SPECIES IS CAPABLE..."

"OUR LAW IS CLEAR. WE ARE INVADERS, YES, MERCILESS WARRIORS, BUT WE NEVER THREATEN PLANETS WHERE SUCH VALUES ARE FOUND.

"THE UNIVERSE NEEDS THOSE, AND WE RESPECT THEM...

"DAYS WENT BY...

"...WEEKS...

"...MONTHS...

"...UNTIL MY WOUNDS WERE HEALED...

"...AND WE MANAGED TO REPAIR MY SHIP."

"ALL THANKS TO YOUR KIND.

"ALWAYS KIND, NEVER ASKING FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN.

"THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED WE HAD BEEN WRONG ALL ALONG.

"HUMANS WEREN'T SO BAD..."

"AND WE WEREN'T SO NICE.

"SOME WILL JUSTIFY ANY ATROCITY IN THE NAME OF FOLLOWING ORDERS."

I FINALLY MANAGED TO ESCAPE.

I CLIMBED ABOARD MY SHIP AND RETURNED HOME. HAD THE ARGUMENT WITH THE COUNSEL YOU ALREADY SAW.

YEAH.

YOU DON'T DESERVE THIS.

LET'S PUT AN END TO IT.

WE JUST NEED ONE LAST-DITCH EFFORT.

KRUMM

LET'S GO, THEN!

SAD FLASHBACKS MAKE ME SO EMOTIONAL.

CRACK

AND THAT *PISSES* ME OFF!

WOOOSH

QUICK! SHOOT AT THE HULL!

BOOM

WELL, WELL, LOOK AT OUR WELCOME COMMITTEE.

I'LL BE POLITE AND SAVE YOUR LEFTOVERS IN TUPPERWARE SO WE DON'T WASTE ANYTHING.

19:05

OH.

WE COULD FOLLOW THE TRACK ALL THE WAY HERE.

SO FAR AWAY?

THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO FIND A SAFE PLACE.

BUT WE'LL NEED TO WALK ALL DAY...

AND I'M HUNGRY...

CHOCLOS WHITE

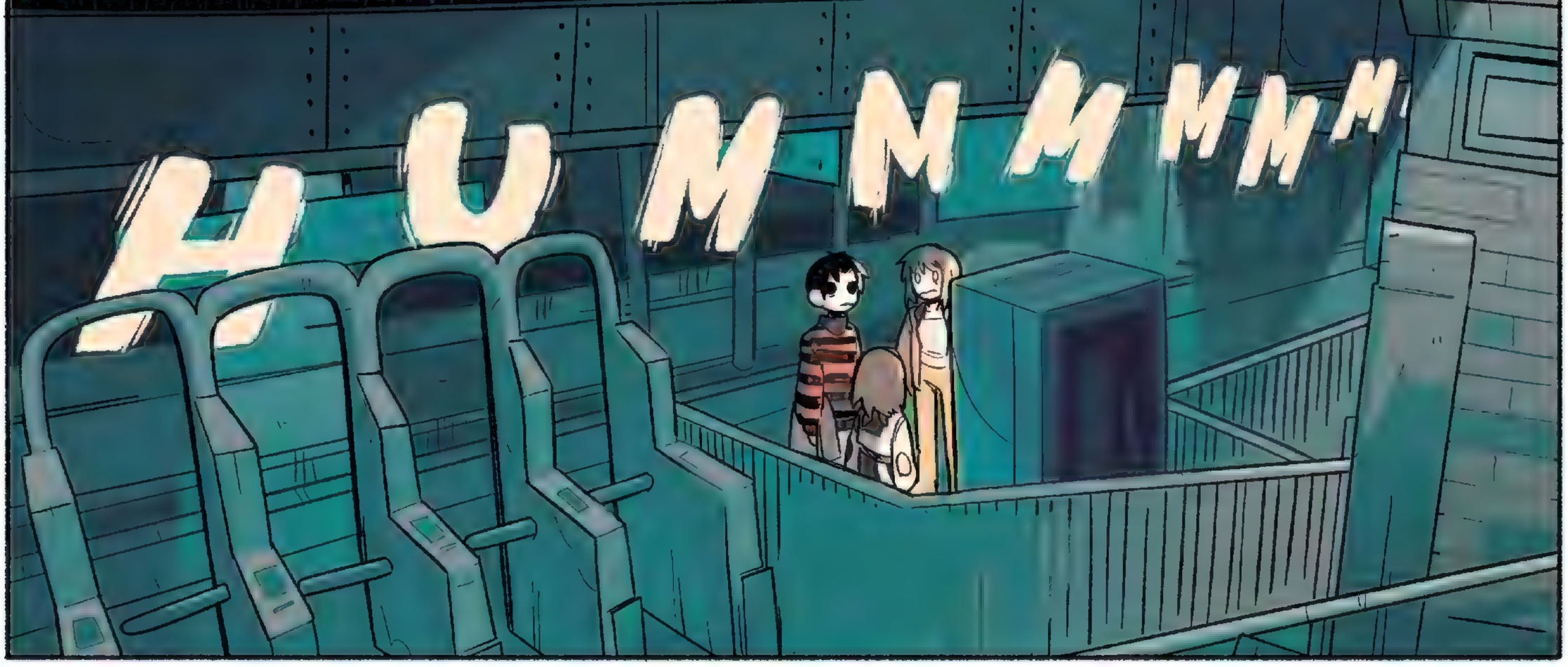
I WANT THOSE.

WE NEED TO EAT SOMETHING THAT RESEMBLES REAL FOOD.

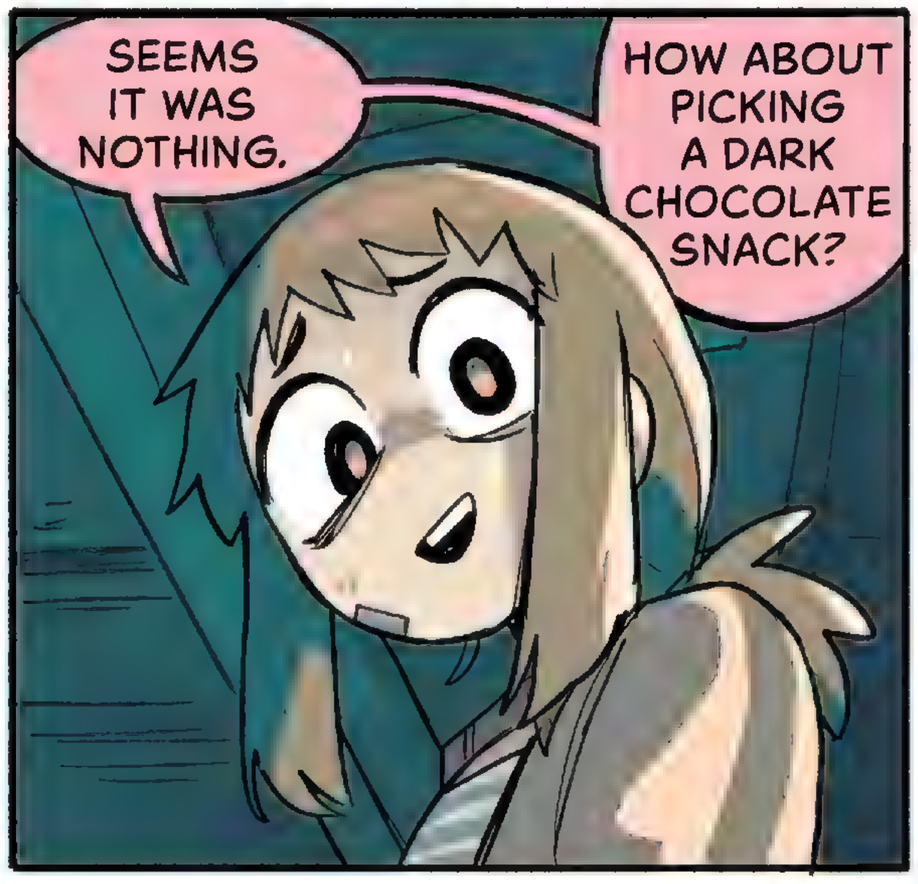
CHOCOLATE IS NATURAL, IT COMES FROM PLANTS.

THINGS THAT COME FROM PLANTS ARE NICE...

...BUT I DOUBT WHITE CHOCOLATE IS REAL CHOCOLATE.


HUMMMMM

DID YOU HEAR THAT OR AM I GOING CRAZY?
BOTH.


SEEMS IT WAS NOTHING.
HOW ABOUT PICKING A DARK CHOCOLATE SNACK?

PASSH

RUN!!!

CRA

THUDD

WHY DID WE TAKE THE SUBWAY TUNNEL?

I DON'T KNOW, IT WAS *YOUR* IDEA!

BUT YOU TOOK THE LEAD!

HANNAH!

212

WHAT?!

GET INSIDE THE TRAIN!

212

WATCH OUT!

WON'T...

...BUDGE.

BLAM

TAP

TAP

TAP

KEEP GOING!

THAT THING CAN'T FIT INTO THE CART!

BUZZ

SHHHH

HHHHH

ACK.

I THINK THIS IS AS FAR AS IT GETS.

CHOP

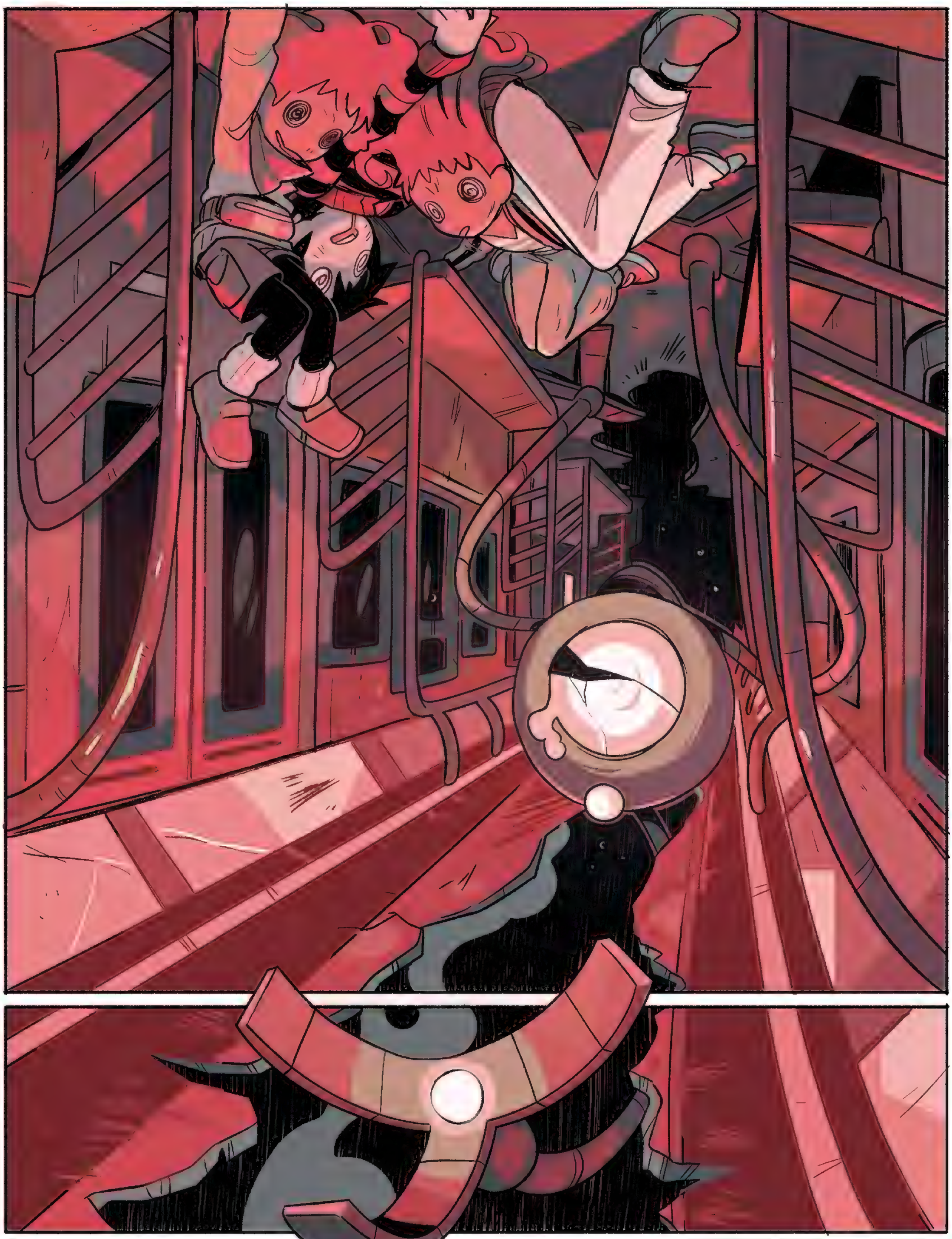
THAT WAS CLOSE.

WHEW!

SHHH

HHH...

AAAAAH


H H H
S O O M S

SHAH

HUH?

BAM

CLONG

CRACK

BLAM

SPLASH

DRIP

DRIP

IS THAT A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING?

8

PEW

PEW

BANG

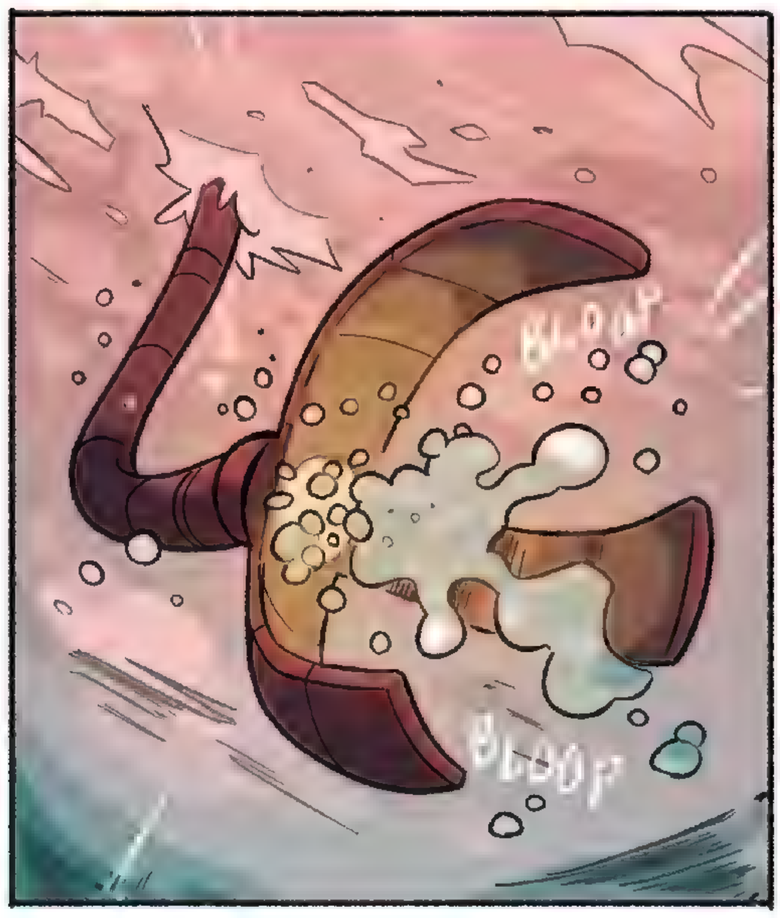
WATCH OUT!

SHH

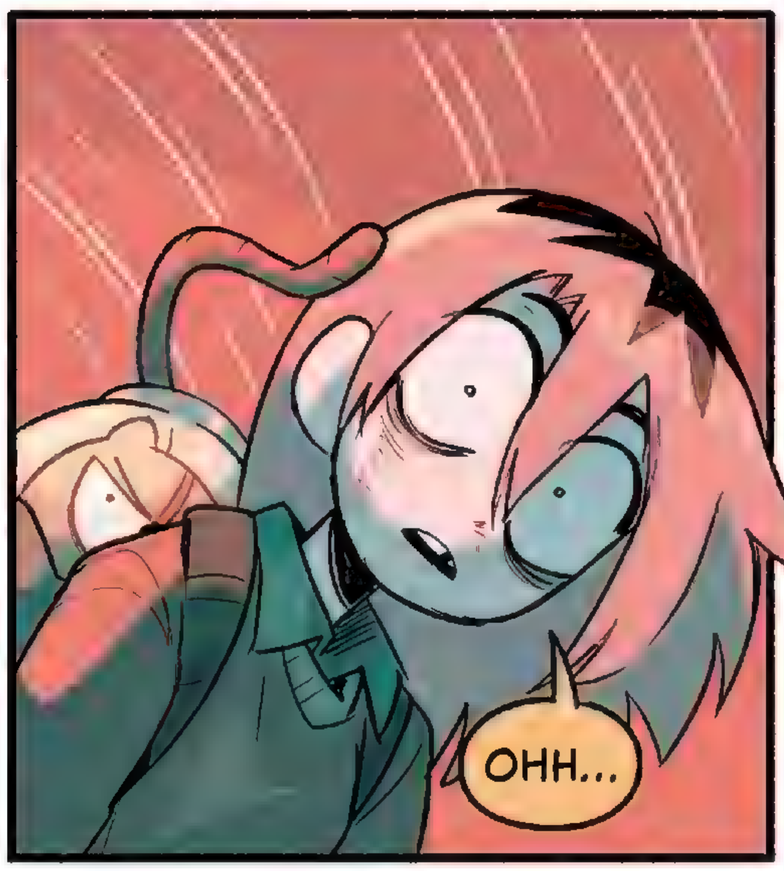
8

ZWAP
OMG

YOU'RE DEFENDING A LIE.


BLOOP
BLOOP

GRAB
BOOM
CRAAAP!


OHH...

SPLISH

SPLASH

HEY.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHOOPS...

SPLASH

TAP

I HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE NOW.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

NO WAY!

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO DO THIS, AND...

YOU KNOW.

NO!!!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD IT IS FOR ME TO MEET NEW PEOPLE?

I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, I DRAW COMICS!

I'VE BEEN FORTUNATE TO STUMBLE UPON YOU.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.

SOMA.

MY NAME IS SOMA.

KILL THEM ALL...

...SOMA.

TAP

I WILL.

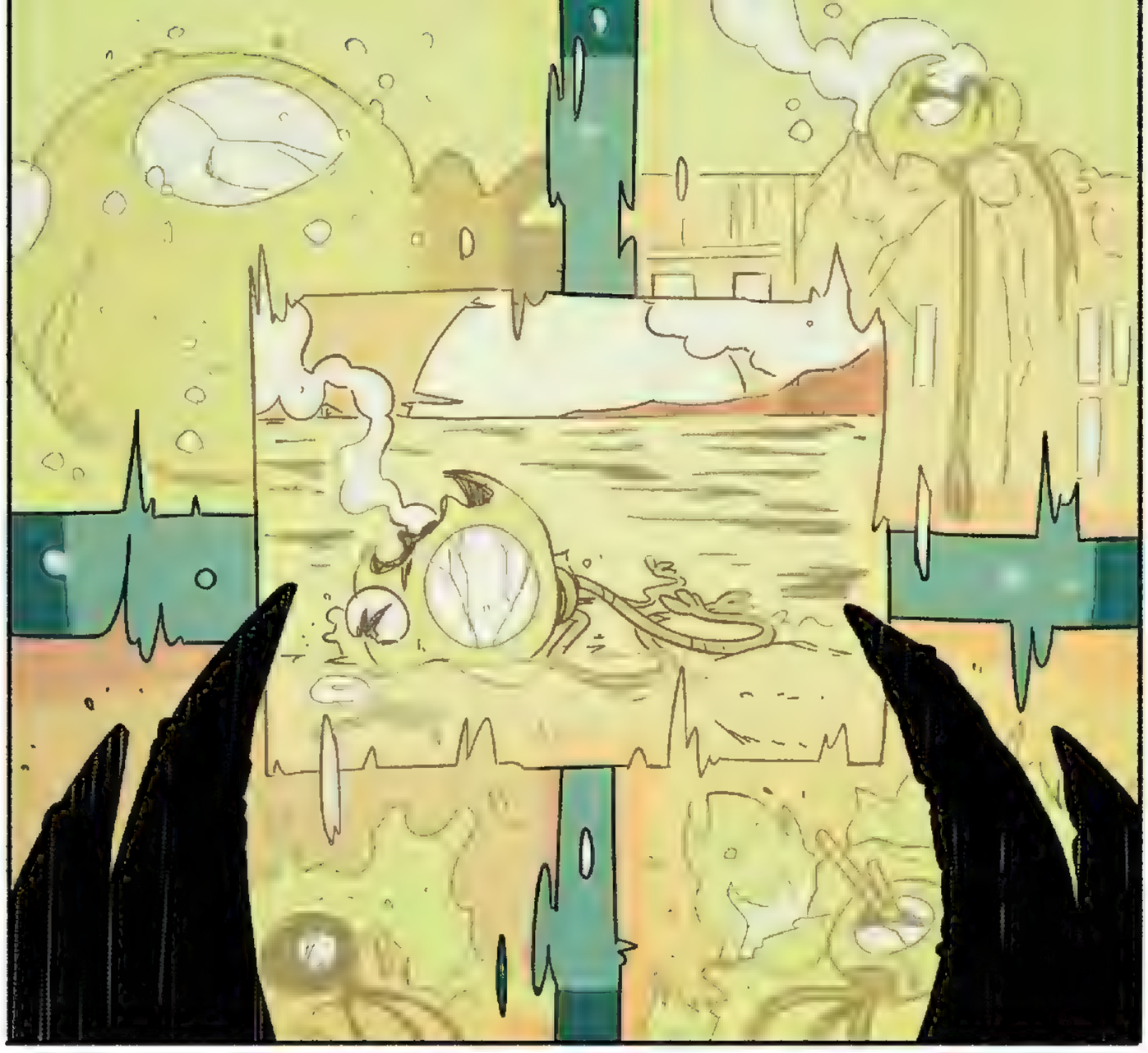
NOW GIVE ME THE BACKPACK, AND TRY NOT TO DIE.

I'LL DO MY BEST.

YOUR BEST IS ENOUGH.

AAAHHHF

ASH



PRE
TION.
PREPARE
THE FINAL
WARNING.

TOTAL
DESTRUCTION
IS IMMINENT.

...UGH...

JUU?

WAIT...

HEY, YOU!

CL...

CLOWN...

DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH MY FRIEND!

V...
VIC...

W...

WAIT...

UGH...

LEAVE ME ALONE!

YOU CREEPS!

NO...

BROOM

THUM

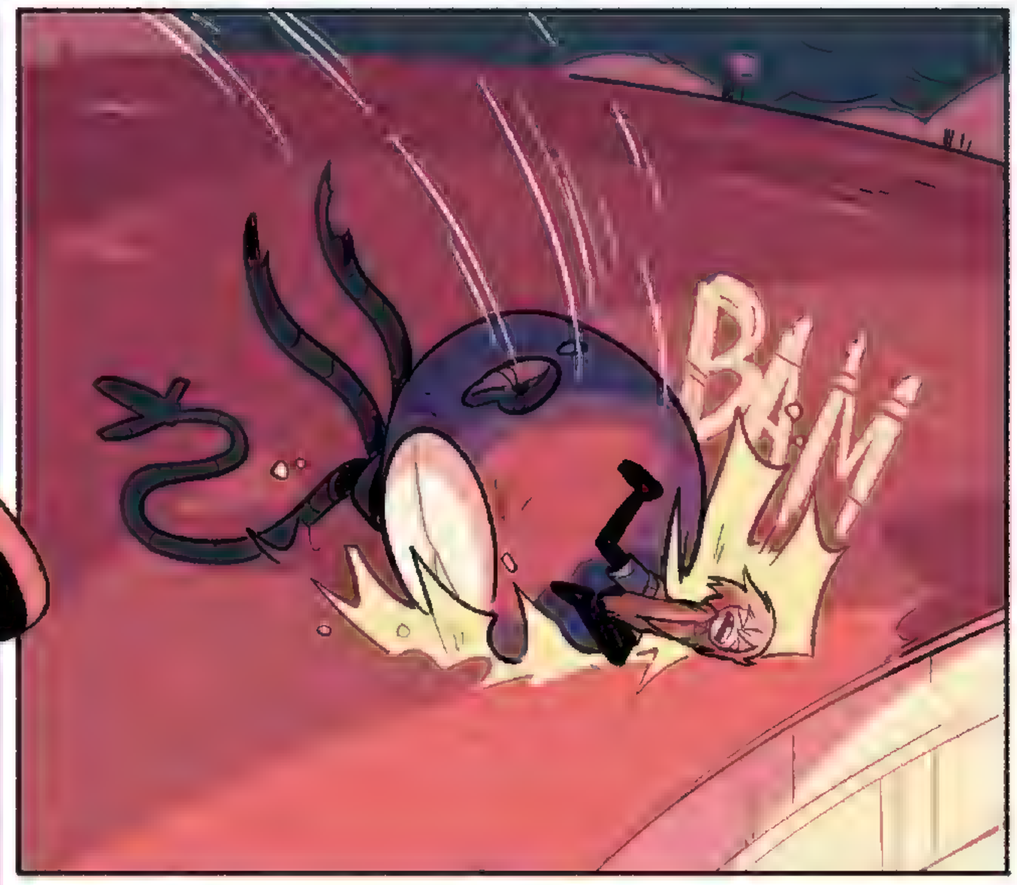
GULP

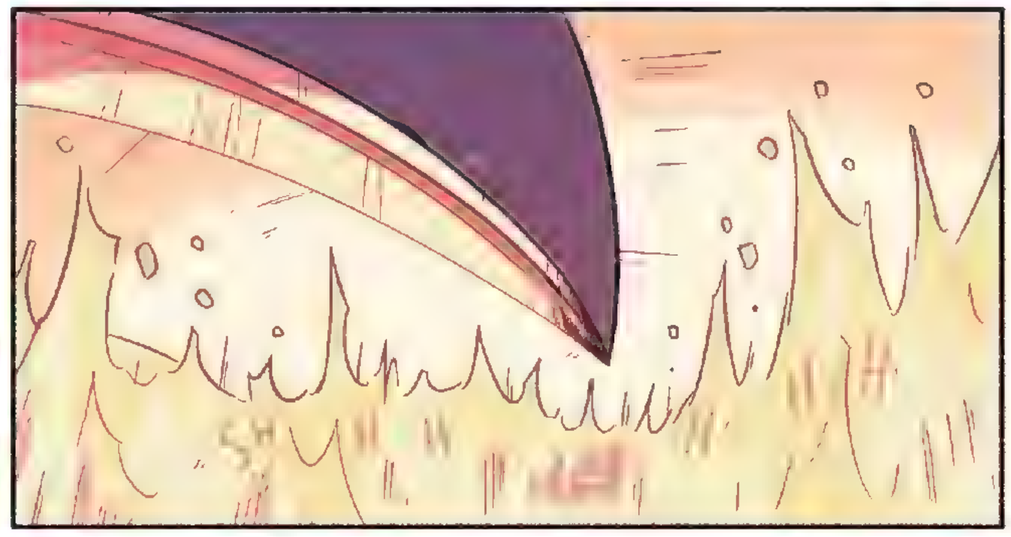
C'MON...

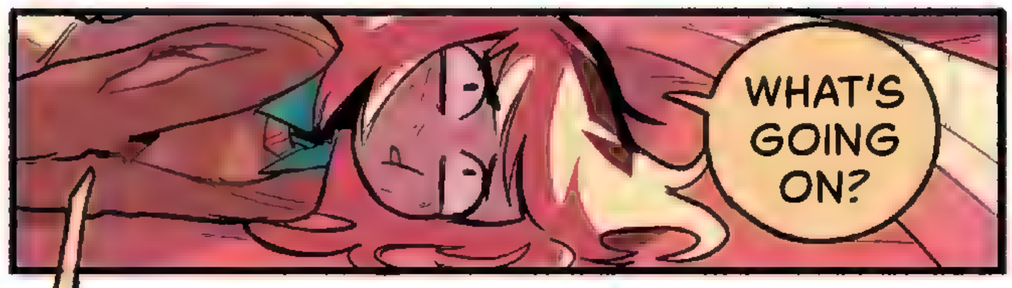
...SOMA.

BIP

ZZZ
AGH!


BAM




WHAT'S GOING ON?

CRAP.

TOTAL DESTRUCTION INITIATED, LORD.

HELLO AGAIN, SOMA.

YOUR JOURNEY ENDS HERE

YOU CAN STILL STOP THIS.

DIE.

BA
BG

CREAK

CRACK

OH...

SH
H
H

BUZZZ

NO, NO, NO...

ZITT

ZIT

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

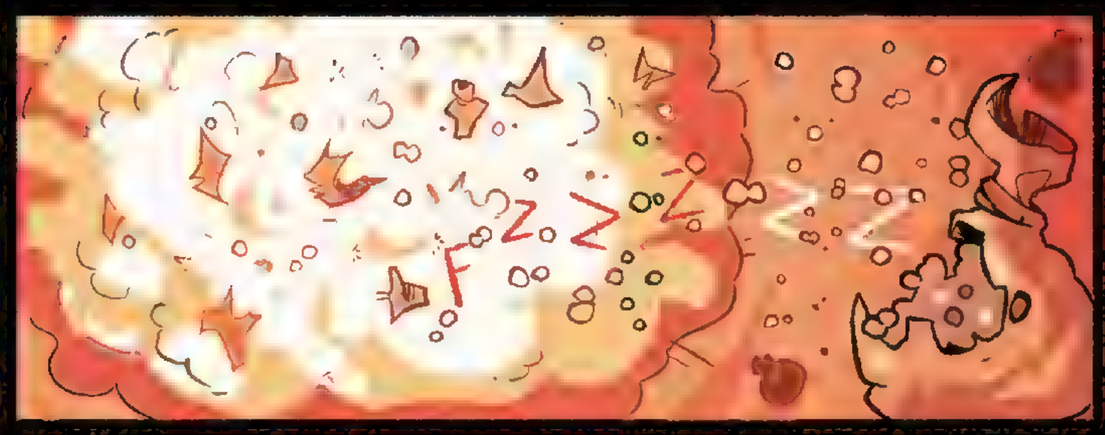
S...STOP!

THAT'S AN ORDER!

IT'S OVER.

PAT

WAIT!



SHHH

SH
H
H
H
SH
H
HH

...THANK YOU.

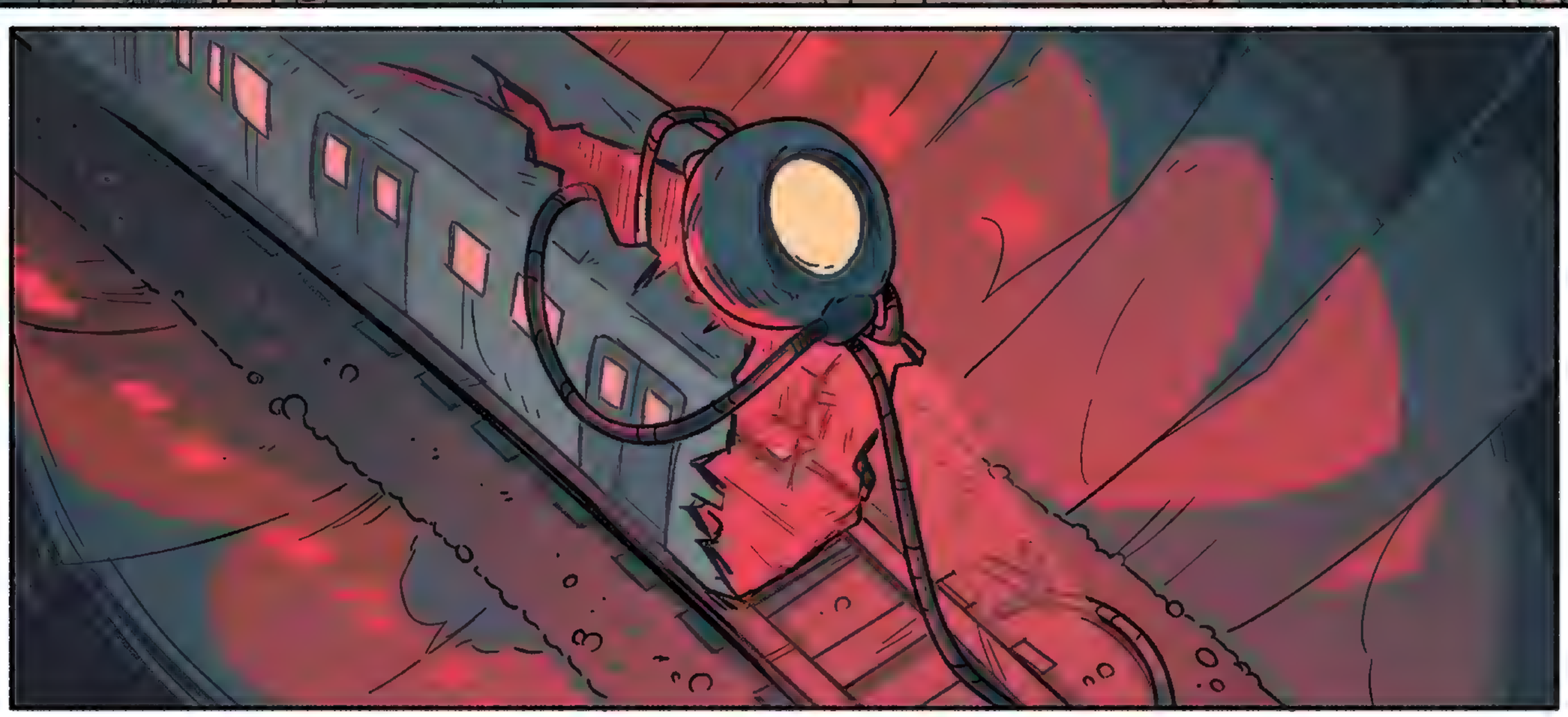
SPIT

SPLAT

DID WE...

WIN?

WOOOOOO



DRIP

PFFT

HEY...

WHERE AM I?

JUU!

SNIF

SNIF

SAW SOME OF YOUR MOVES UP THERE.

YOU'RE GOOD.

20:10

NOW IT'S TIME TO START OVER.

HEH!

ISN'T THAT WHAT LIFE IS ABOUT?

UHHH...

WANT ONE?

NAH, NO WAY.

I THINK I'M QUITTING.

GOOD FOR YOU.

"IT'S BEEN SOME TIME, AND THE REBUILDING IS GOING TO TAKE A WHILE.

"AFTER THE ATTACK, AN NGO DONATED A BUNCH OF CONTAINERS SO PEOPLE HAD A PLACE TO LIVE.

"TRUTH IS, THERE'S BUGS EVERYWHERE, AND WINDOWS DON'T QUITE LOCK, BUT I CAN'T COMPLAIN.

"ALWAYS WANTED TO LIVE IN THE SUBURBS."

"NOW I'M DRAWING THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY, BUT APART FROM THAT EVERYTHING'S PRETTY MUCH THE SAME.

"ALTHOUGH...

"I'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO BE AT EASE WITH WHAT I DO."

"A FOREIGN PUBLISHER TRUSTED ME, AND TRUTH BE TOLD, THEY PAY A DECENT RATE.

"GUESS, THANKS TO THE DAY I SPENT WITH YOU, NOW I HAVE SOMETHING PERSONAL TO SAY.

"...SOMETIMES I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

"SOMA...

"I DUNNO, I LIKE TO THINK YOU'RE LISTENING ON FROM A..."

I'M *BOOOORED.* LET'S HIT THE POOL.

"ALMOST FORGET, SOMETIMES I NEED TO BABYSIT THE BRAT SO JUU AND HANNAH CAN CATCH A BREAK."

CAN'T YOU SEE I'M WORKING?

COME ON NOW!

SEE YOU IN EIGHT HOURS, KID.

BUT YOU'RE JUST *DRAWING.*

IT'S MY JOB!!!

YEAH, YEAH, WHATEVER YOU SAY.

WHAT IS *THAT?*

EMERGENCY USE ONLY

HUH?

N... NOTHING.

I COULD TELL JUU...

I COULD *END* YOU.

YOU'LL BE LEFT WITHOUT TOBACCO BEFORE I DO!

W...WAIT UP!

THAT'S FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY!

COME BACK HERE, YOU SANCTIMONIOUS BRAT!

DING DONG

WHO ARE THOSE BALD FELLAS?

NO CLUE...

BUT WE BETTER CLEAN UP, JUST IN CASE.

O... OK.

SURELY, THEY ARE CIA, FBI, OR DHS. YOU JUST PLAY DUMB...

IF THEY ASK, I'LL TELL THEM YOU KIDNAPPED ME.

BETTER KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, THEN.

OH MY...

WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU DONE?!

HELLO!

WE SHAVED OUR HEADS TOGETHER!

ISN'T IT SUPER *CHIC?*

SPAGUET MONSTER

P/sta is better than carbonara

·1.9.9.7·

"CHIC" DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE IT...

LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO JUST ESCAPED FROM PRISON.

WOULD YOU TAKE SATAN'S SPAWN TO THE POOL?

HE WON'T LET ME WORK.

WE BROUGHT PASTRIES, LIKE CROISSANTS AND STUFF.

HMM...

WE EVEN GOT THE ONE WITH *CHORIZO* AND CHEESE YOU LIKE SO MUCH.

MI CASA ES SU CASA!!!

BUT NO FISHING FOR DIRT IN BLIND SPOTS.

THANKS.

HOWDY, MUNCHKIN ♡

ACKKK!

MAYA, HOW'S THE COMIC COMING ALONG?

JUU TOLD ME YOU'RE ABOUT TO FINISH IT, YEAH?

WELL, KIND OF.

I NEED TO POLISH THE COVER AND ADJUST THE INTERIOR COLORS.

SWEETNESS! WE SHOULD GO OUT AND CELEBRATE!

WELL, MAYBE I COULD TWEAK ALL THE WORD BALLOONS...

AND PANEL SEVEN. NEED TO REVISE PANEL SEVEN.

AND THE FIRST FIFTEEN PAGES. NEED TO REDRAW THEM ALL, IT'S A BONA FIDE DISASTER.

IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK, I'M A MESS.

SHOOT, I WAS SUPPOSED TO SUBMIT MY INVOICE ON THE TENTH.

THEY TAKE SUCH A LONG TIME TO PAY...

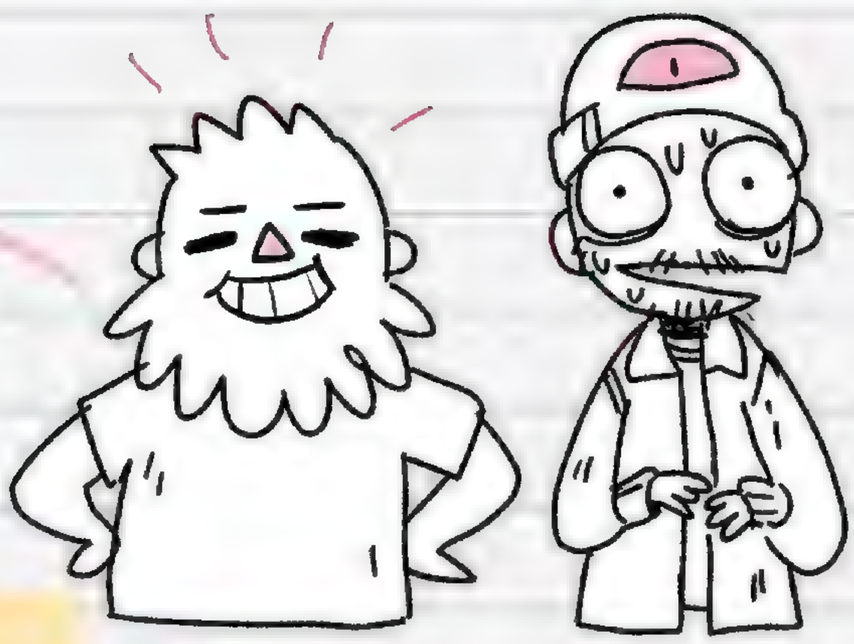
I HOPE THAT, AT THE VERY LEAST, IT WILL SELL INTERNATIONALLY.

I NEED A BREAK OR SOMETHING.

THE END

EXTRAS

Hey there! Since you got this far—bet you had a good time with Maya and Soma—we're going to tell you how we created this story, step by step.



Maya is a comics artist going through a creative crisis. All stories seem equally soulless to her, and always pan out the same way: someone with superpowers saves the world from some new villain or catastrophe.

Meanwhile, her best friend, Juu, has somewhat more mundane problems—he managed to land his first date through a dating app and needs Maya's advice. Despite barely having any time to spare, she agrees to meet. They go to her favorite breakfast joint, where Juu—a total drama queen—tells her of his problem and asks for help.

Back home, while trying to regain her drawing focus, Maya is interrupted by the sound of broken glass. Going into the living room she finds Soma, a tiny alien wearing a broken diving helmet, while seemingly choking. Maya reacts quickly. When she plunges him into water again, the little guy connects with her and tells her what's going on: his whole alien race is about to launch a big invasion, starting with her hometown. Soma asks Maya to help him stop it.

From then on, Maya will try to assist Soma in every possible way to contain the incursion, and Juu will struggle to survive and display a courage he never knew he had, while the city is engulfed in chaos of cosmic proportions and alien tentacles.

This is a pitch, or story synopsis. Just a few paragraphs containing fundamental information about the lead characters driving the story, the setting we'll be moving through, and what the main conflict will be. It's not about describing everything that will happen—only the main story beats so anyone who reads the pitch will want to know more.

In an outline, we try to count what happens in the comic scene by scene. It is a roadmap to test the order of events and avoid things happening without good reasons. All scenes are pointed out at this stage. Soma's outline included thirty-seven scenes and was ten pages long. Here's an example:

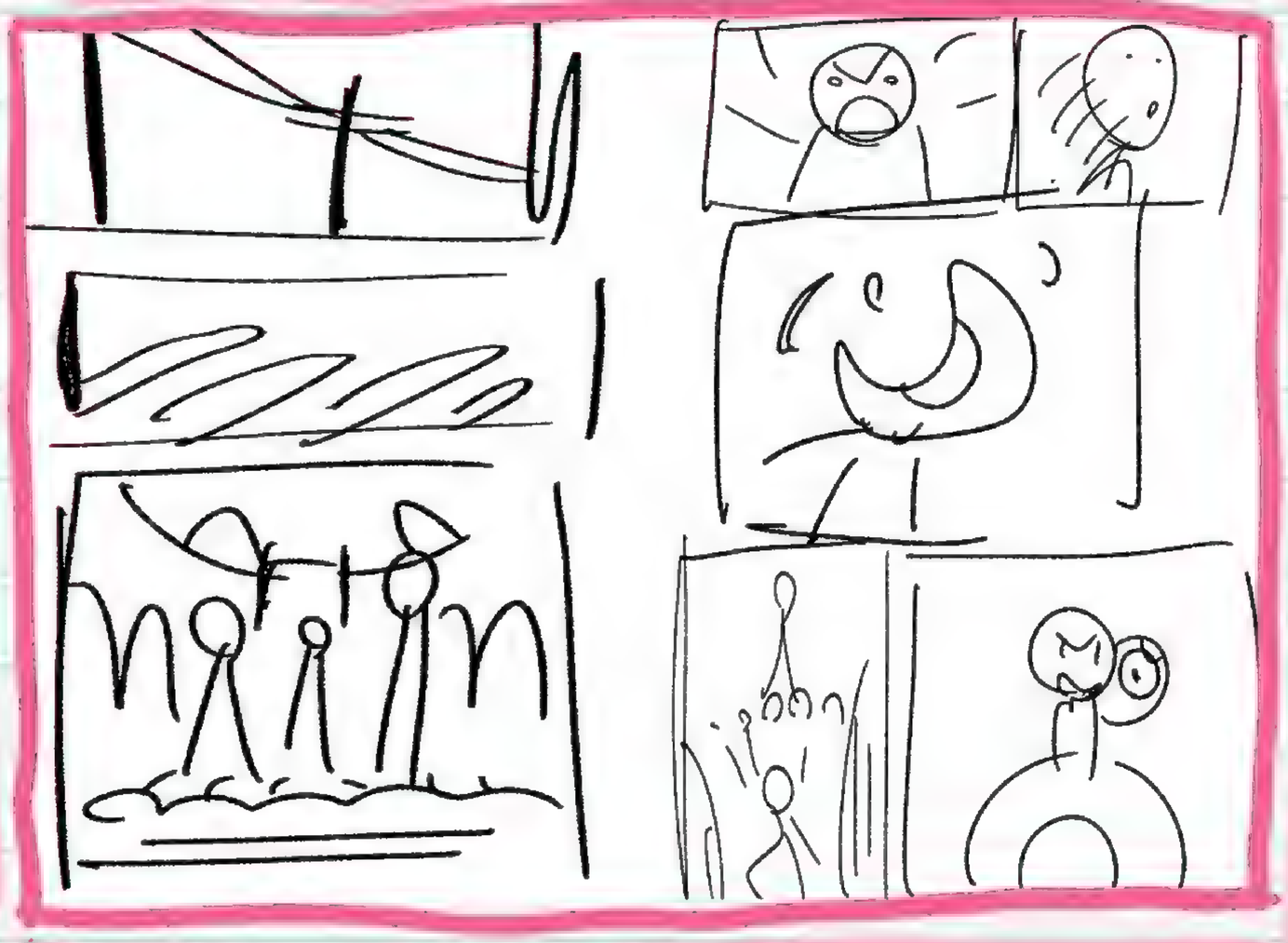
1. *08:00* – A female mech pilot armed with a combat sword fights an octopus-style kaiju. Our hero and the monster threaten each other. Just before the fight begins, the pilot and the kaiju yawn, followed by the entire world. The one actually yawning at her desk is Maya. Fresh out of bed, she's wearing shoddy pajamas, a beanie, and foam clogs. She's drawing on a digital tablet, with a steaming coffee mug by her side. She yawns again and grabs her coffee to try and overcome her sleepiness. At that moment, her phone alarm rings with a "time to wake up" sign. Maya looks at the screen with a mixture of irony and anger.

2. *08:05* – Juu is sleeping in an uncomfortable position. His phone alarm rings. He ignores it and tries to keep sleeping, but the alarm keeps buzzing and he has no choice but to pick up the phone and turn it off. When he does, he notices several messages from a girl, checks them out, and finds that instead of meeting for dinner, she wants to meet at lunchtime. Juu wakes in a rush, gets very nervous, and starts messaging...

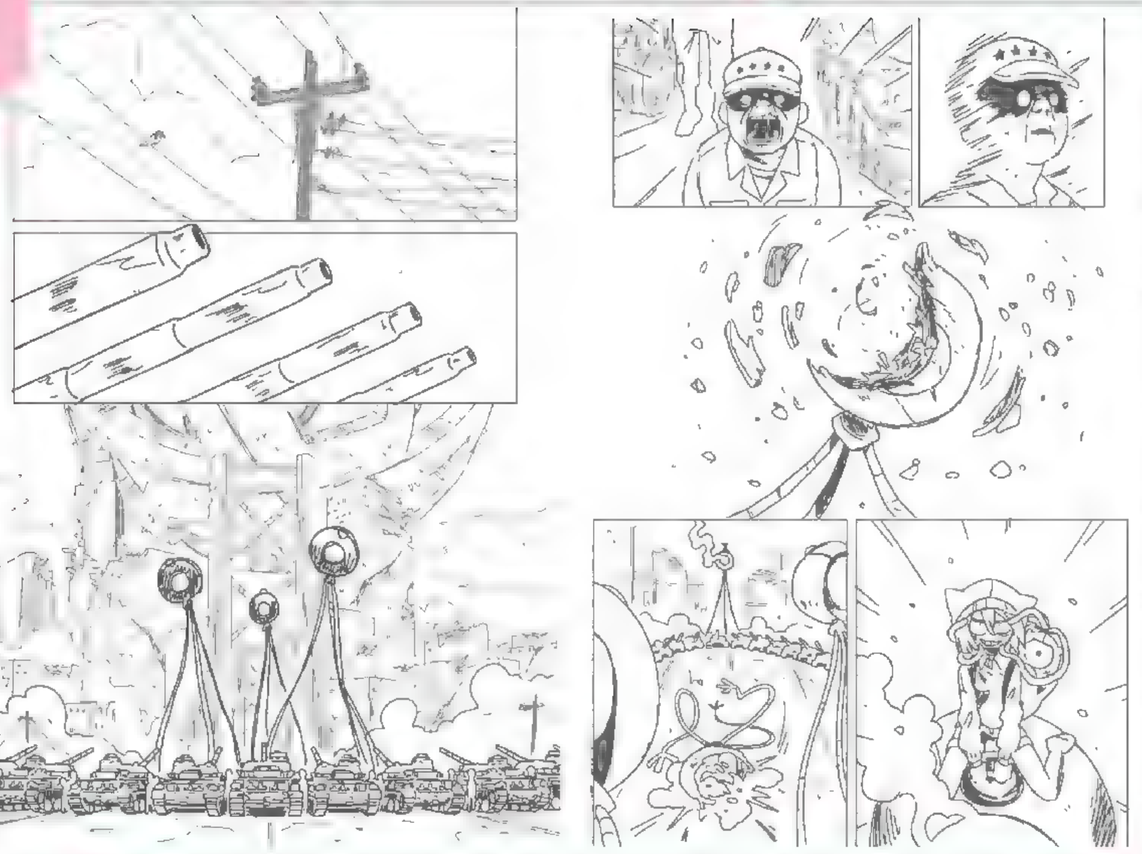
From the outline we move **on to the script.** Each outline scene becomes one or several panels.
In this case, we went for a film-style script (we're movie buffs, tee-hee!), which allows for greater page layout flexibility. It includes all the background descriptions, character actions and reactions, and all dialogue.
If the outline was only ten pages long, the script was ninety-two.

Ext. Street – Dusk
The sun begins to set above the city, which makes the scene even more gloomy. Maya drives the tripod with Soma hitched to her back. Before them, three tripods face off against army tanks. Maya blasts one of the tripods from behind, smashing it to bits.
Maya: Take that! This is getting too easy!

Now it's my turn! I'm terrible at explaining things but will do my best. From Fernando's script. I begin roughing up the panel layouts. I come from animation, so I do it that way, one by one, with each panel on top of the next.
Once I have all of the rough scenes, I organize each panel like a puzzle in order for each page to make sense. This way I focus on content before sequencing, which isn't as stressful for me as doing it the other way around.

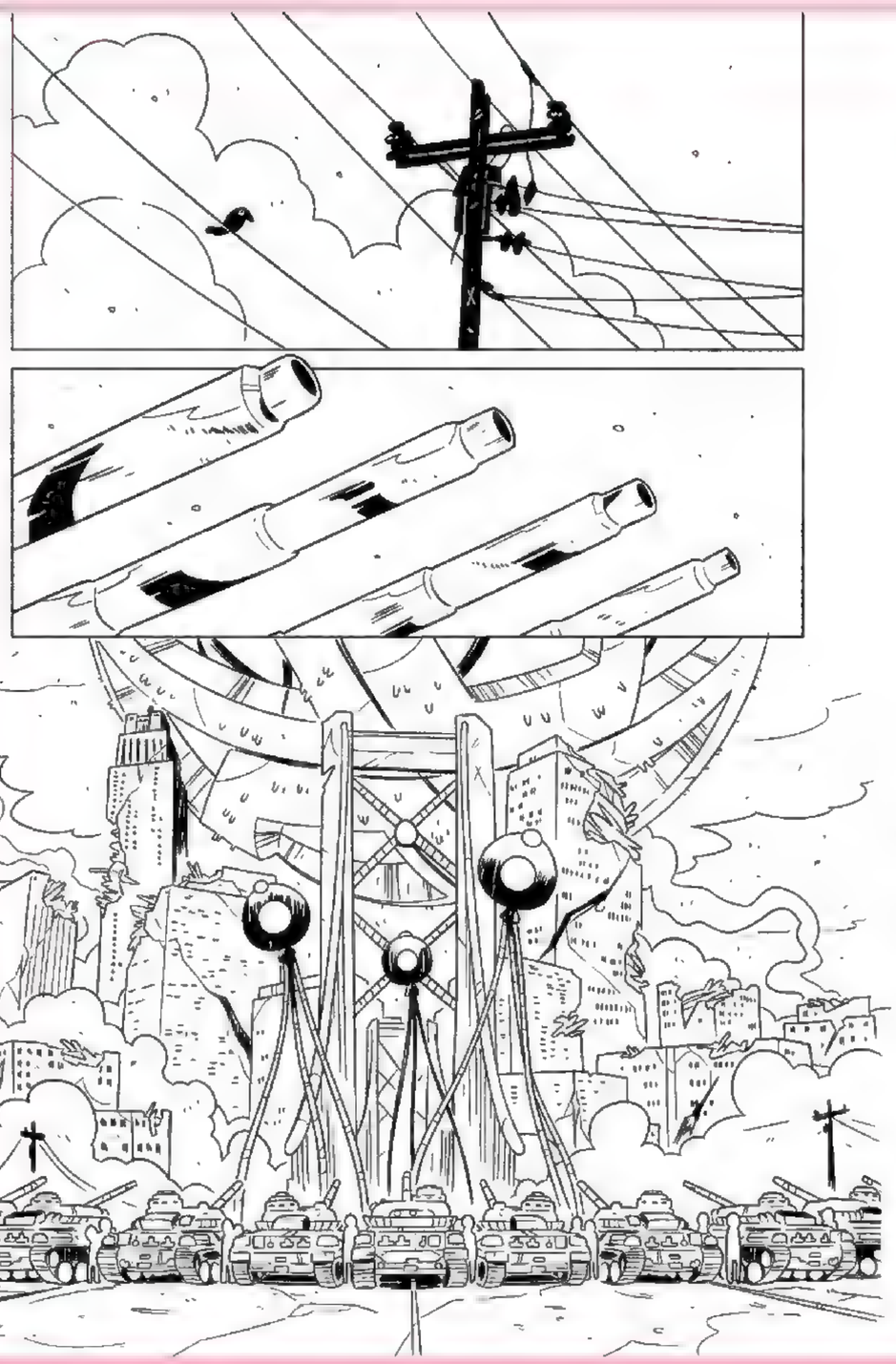


Once the pages are set, I do **the pencils** on a top layer. Personally, I like the sketches to be as detailed as possible.



On a side note, it would be ideal to set the speech balloons during this stage. I didn't because I'm a doofus, so keep this as a reminder of what **not** to do.

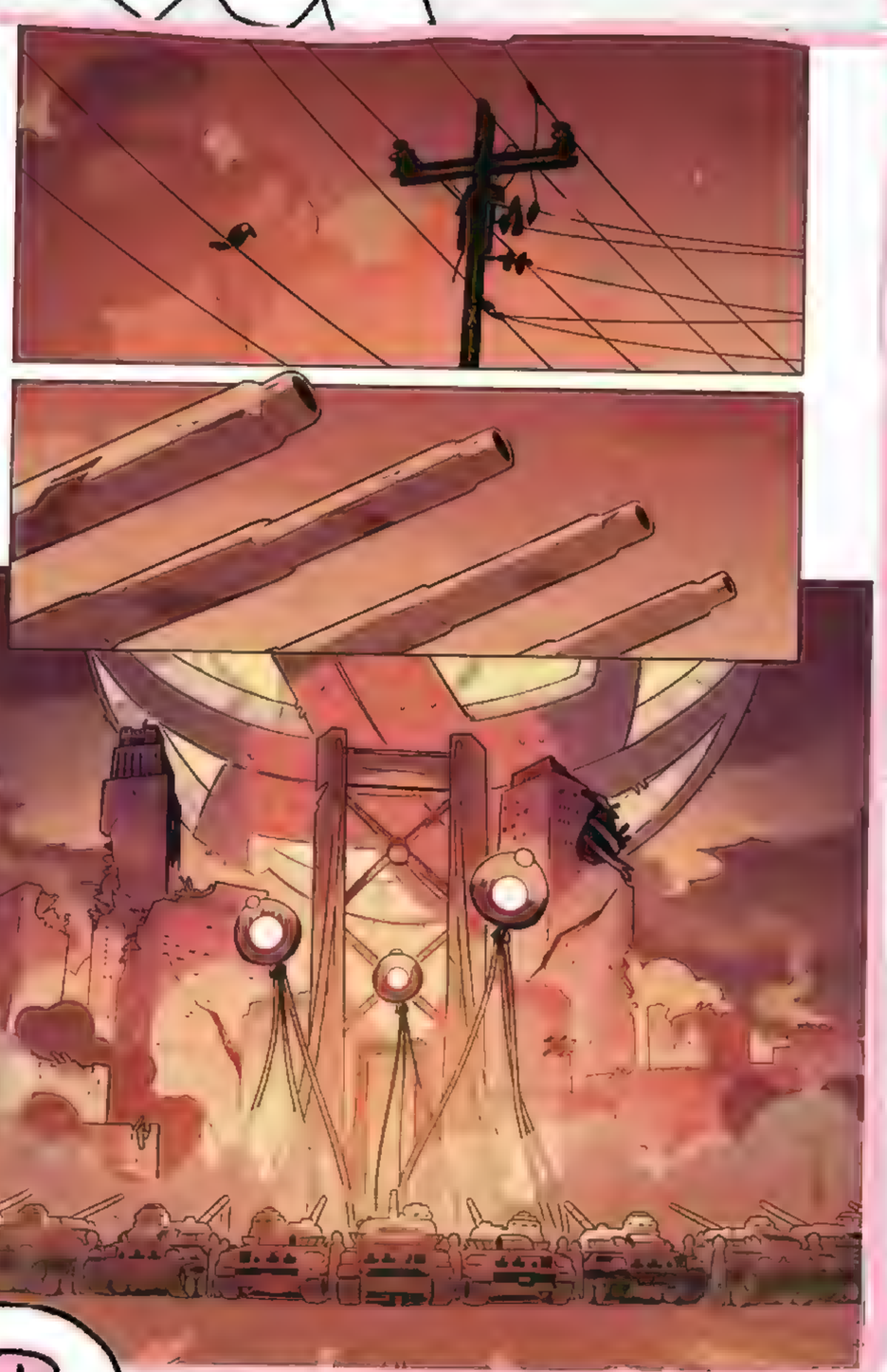
From here on I **start inking.** Not much to explain here, other than it gives the sketches definition and cleans everything up.



Next up, I send all line art to **Eiden for coloring.** Using some color tryouts I did earlier as reference, Eiden did a bang-up job. Not only did he perfectly capture the essence of my vision, but made several contributions of his own which improved the overall result—which wouldn't have been possible without him. I am forever grateful for his patience and dedication—not to mention he's the coolest dude. He's super easy to collaborate with! Now that I'm done fawning over Eiden's work, I also need to acknowledge Helz and Eric for assisting him with the flats—you guys are the best!

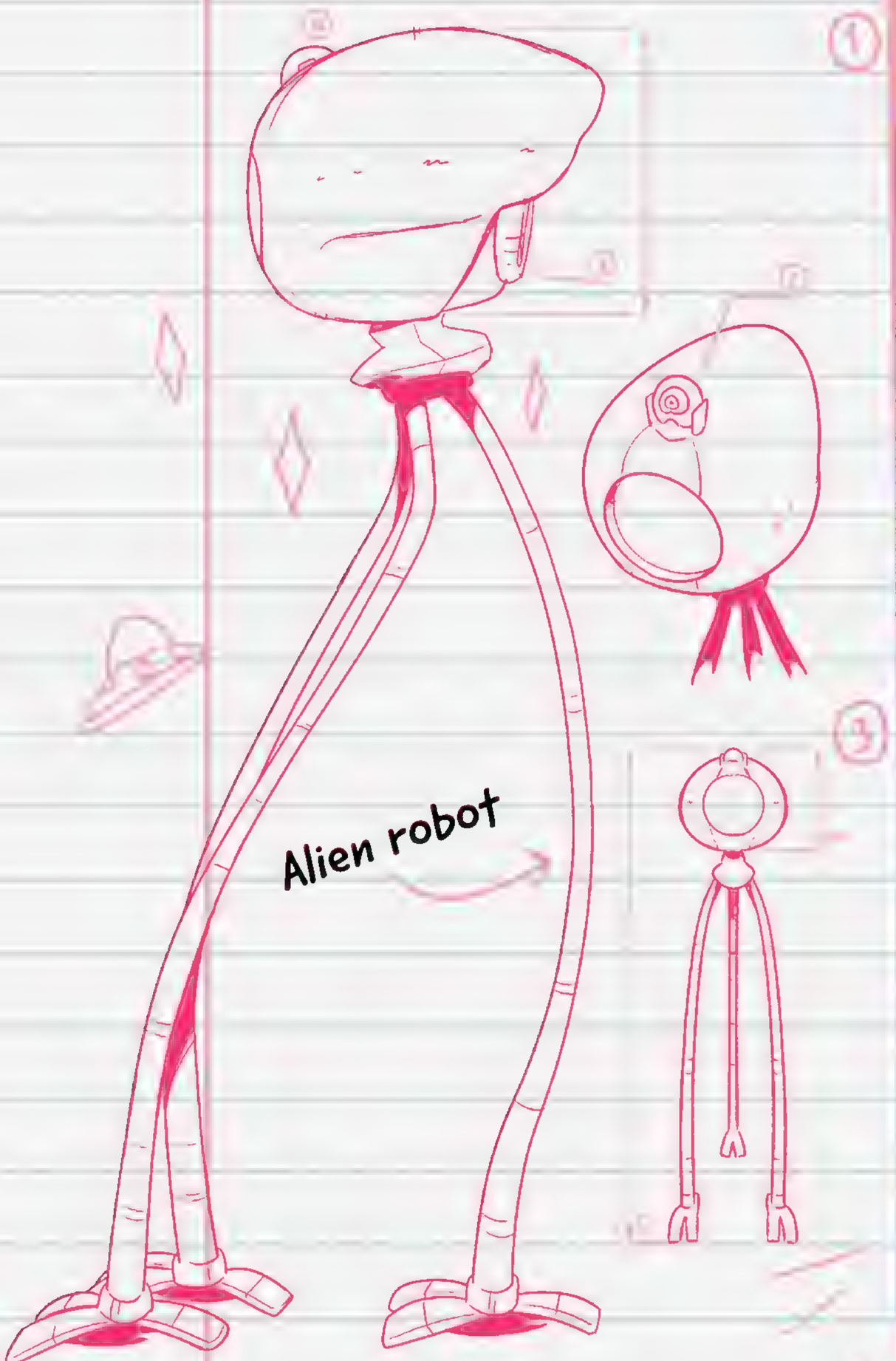
Then, after Eiden sends me the colored pages, I do some finishes, touching up some details, and adding **all the lettering.**

FINAL

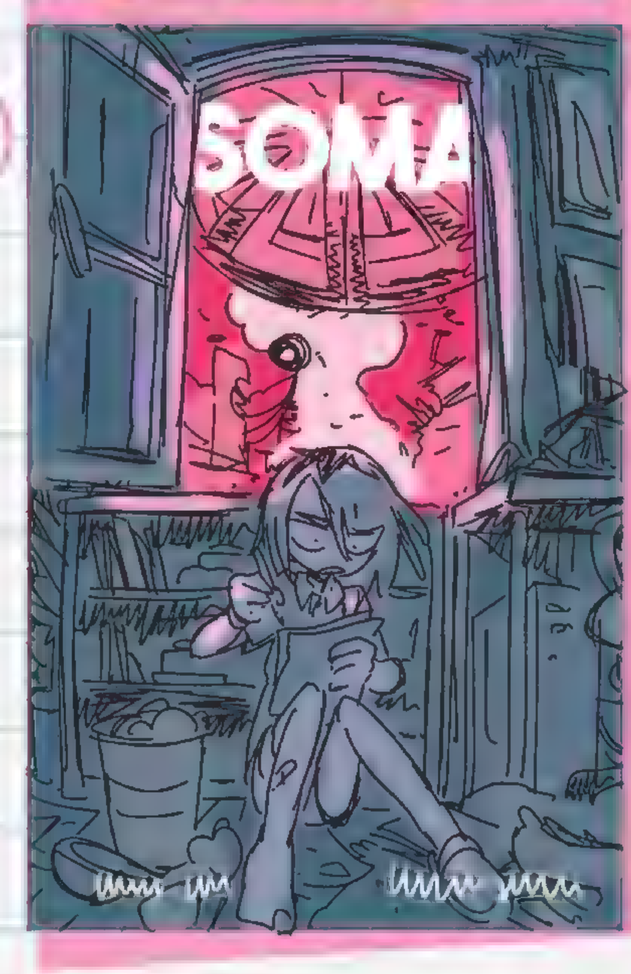


Bonus: The process was different on the video-game page spread where artist Kaktuspirat tackled all pixel art based on my sketches. Fingers crossed that someone makes a beat-'em-up *Soma* game in the future!

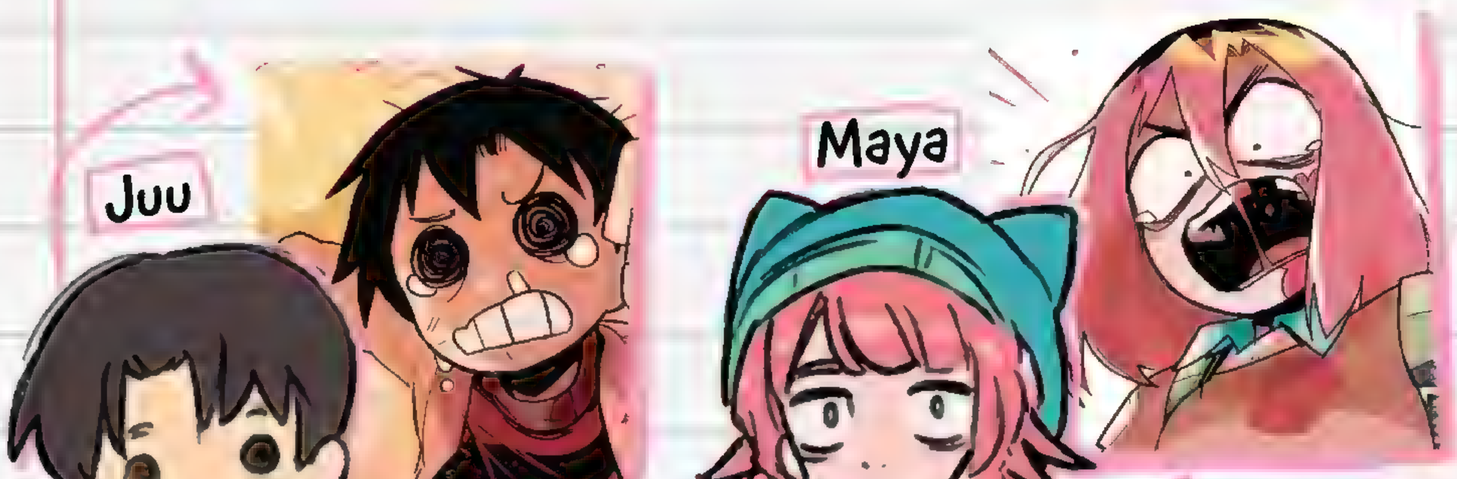
MORE EXTRAS!



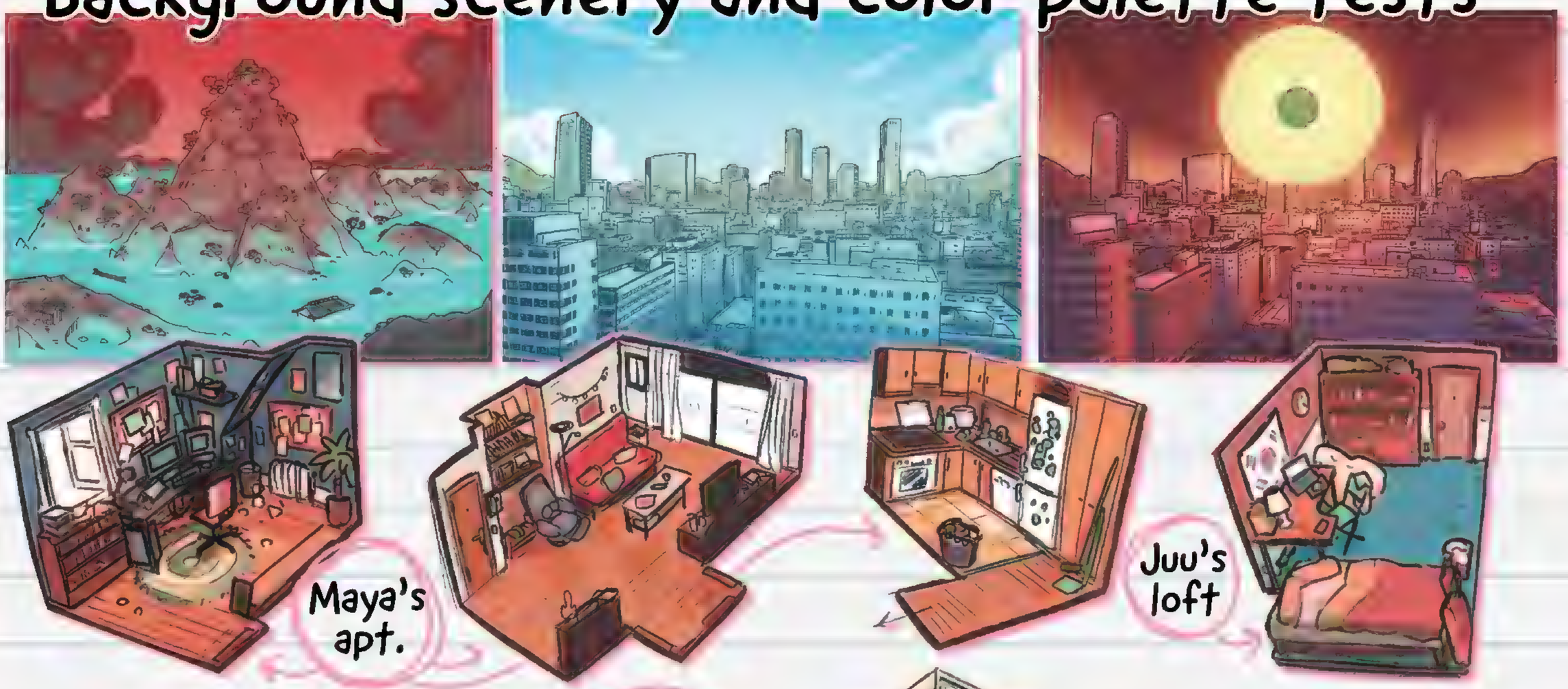
Alternative covers



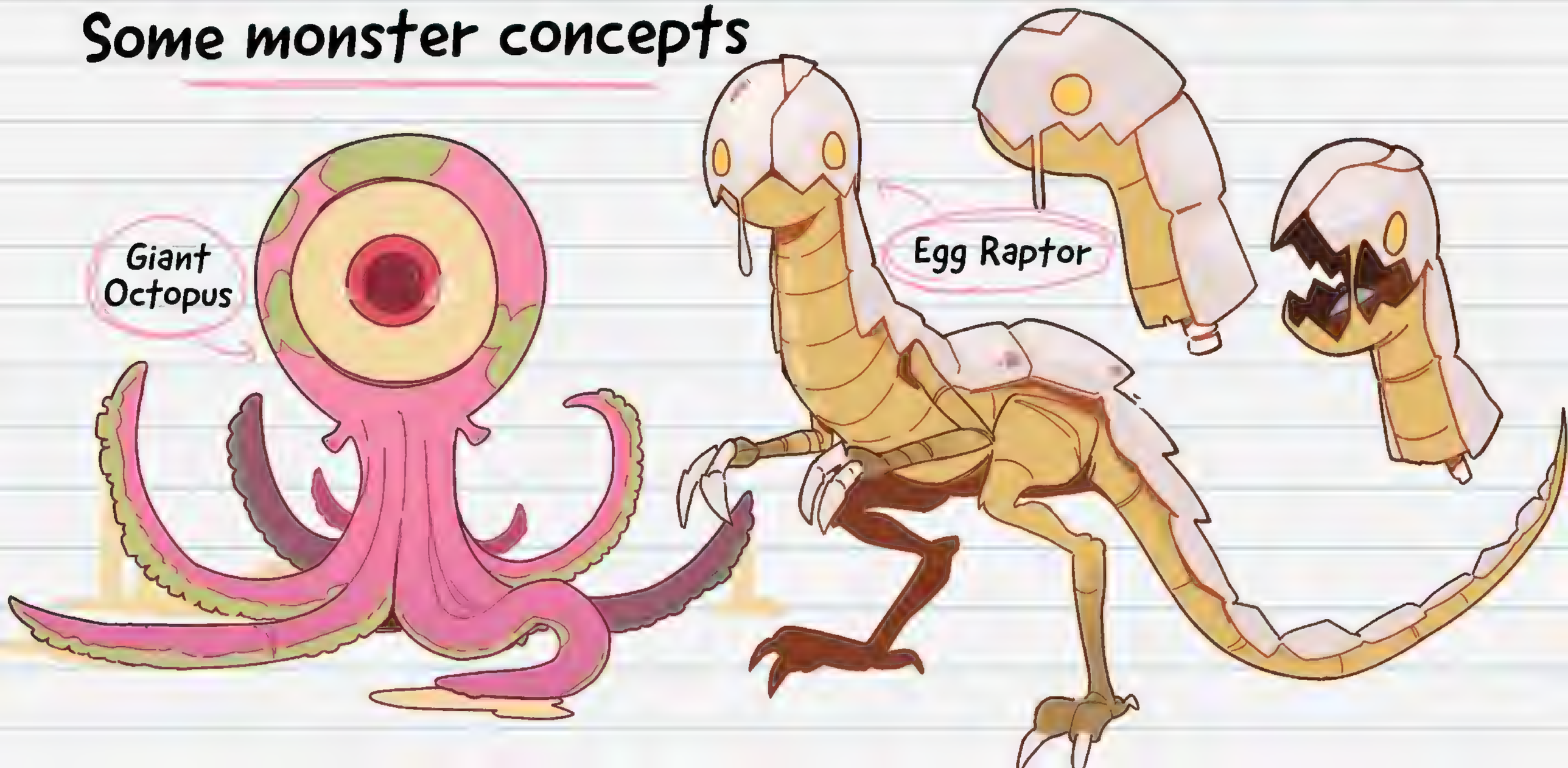
Original vs. final designs



Background scenery and color palette tests



Some monster concepts



ORIGINAL COVER

Maya es una dibujante de cómics que vive constantemente estresada.

El ritmo al que debe dibujar, la sensación de no estar haciendo las obras que a ella le gustaría y la falta absoluta de tiempo para nada más la oprimen bastante.

Todo empeora aún más en el momento en que un alienígena con un exoesqueleto y una escafandra destrozada se cuela por una ventana.

Necesita ayuda: los suyos están a punto de empezar una conquista de la Tierra y debe impedirlo.

Juntos, Maya y el alien se lanzarán a una batalla que no pueden ganar contra soldados, naves gigantescas y tentáculos, muchísimos tentáculos.

FERNANDO LLOR
CARLES DALMAU

PROMO ART FOR A MAGAZINE

ONI PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT!

To Carles, obviously. You're the salt of the earth.

To Celeste. My dedication can't fit on one page, much less a thousand! Thank you.

To Borja, Sabela, and Manu. Writing for kids has become much more important to me because of you.

To Mora, Manuel, Marquina, Alicia, Angel, Miguel Angel, Roberto, Angux, and the rest.
You can't make it without friends.

And to Zafi, a cowardly dog, but still the best in this universe.

—FERNANDO

To Fernando, Eiden, and Helz. *Soma* wouldn't have been possible without you both.

To my dog, Mitty, as well as Nil, Luna, Marc, Albert, Miriam, Edu, Miguel, and the amazing team over Massive Monster studio. Thank you for all the support you give me. <3

And especially for the lady at the coffee shop I go to every Sunday for always remembering I like honey mustard with my bocata sandwich.

—CARLES

Cult of the Lamb Vol. 1: The First Verse by Alex Paknadel & Troy Little

Jonna and the Unpossible Monsters by Chris & Laura Samnee

Cindy and Biscuit Vol 1: We Love Trouble by Dan White

Pink Lemonade by Nick Cagnetti

Issunboshi: A Graphic Novel by Ryan Lang

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SOMA

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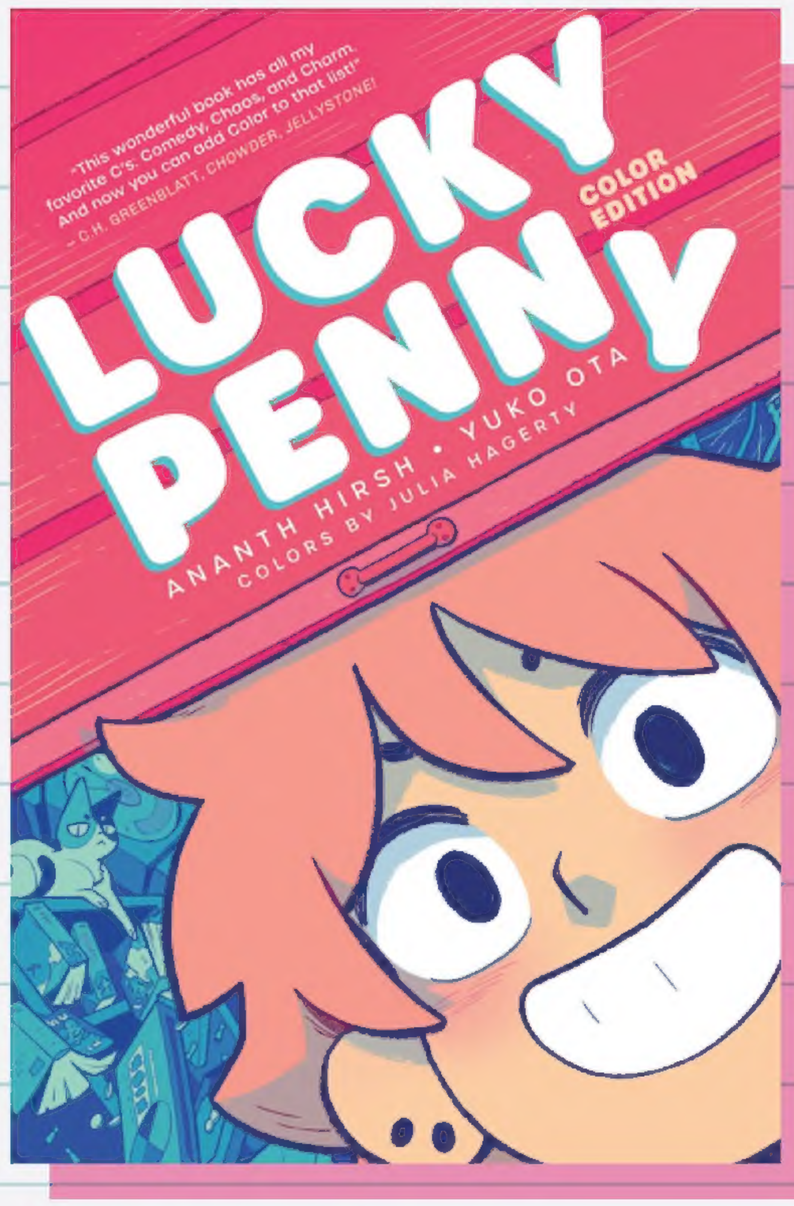
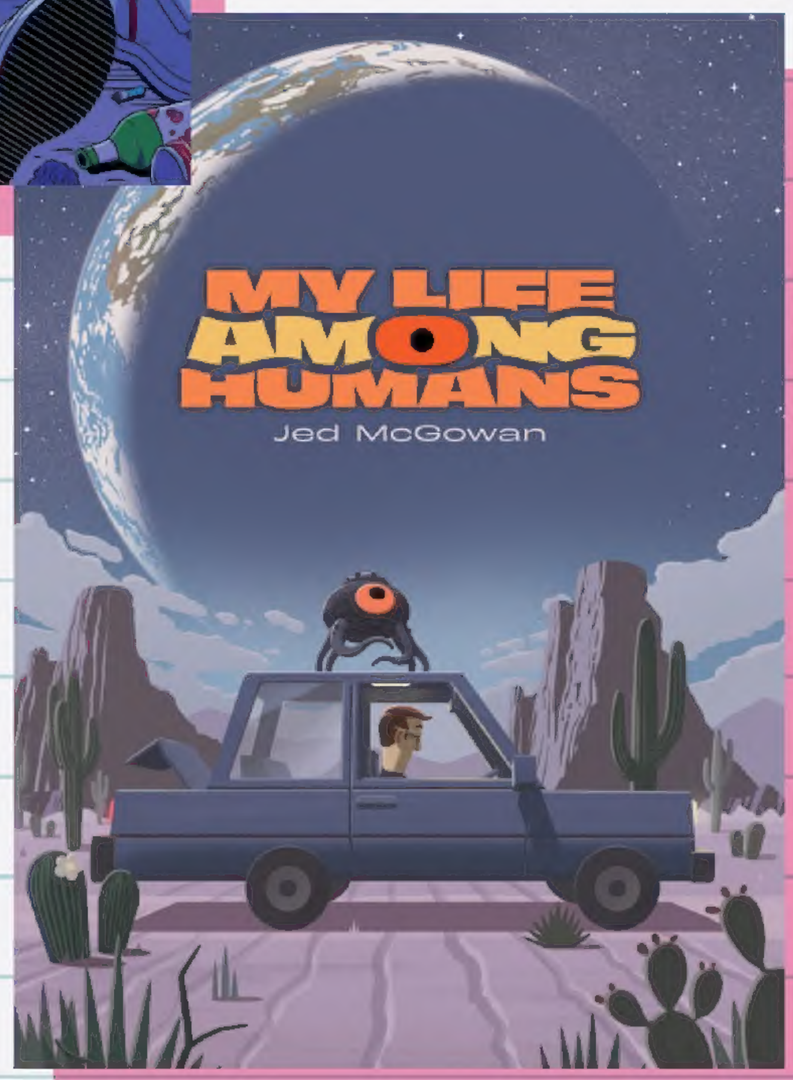
Space Trash Vol. 1 by Jenn Woodall



Lucky Penny Color Edition by Ananth Hirsh & Yuko Ota



My Life Among Humans by Jed McGowan

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FERNANDO LLOR has written comics since 2014. So far he has published twenty-three different titles in Spain, France, the US, and Portugal, including *Ojos Grises* (2016), *El Espíritu del Escorpión* (2018), *La Confesión* (2019), *Challenged: A Story of School Harassment* (2020), *Plot Point* (2021), and *Dream-Breaker* (2021).

CARLES DALMAU is a multimedia freelance illustrator, whose works range from comic books to concept art. He is the author of *Lucid Lucy* and *Calamari Kebab*, and the artist on the *Magic Animals* (2023) series. He illustrated the poster for the 27th Barcelona Manga Fair and has worked for several video game companies on games like *Monster Camp*, *Genshin Impact*, *The Binding of Isaac*, *Bread & Fred*, *Wild Frost*, and *Ankora: Lost Days*, among others. He currently works for Massive Monster Studios on the *Cult of the Lamb* video game.

From writer Fernando Llor (*Ojos Grises*, *Subnormal: Una Historia de Acoso Escolar*) and writer/illustrator Carles Dalmau (*Lucid Lucy*, *Cult of the Lamb*) comes *Soma*, a science-fiction adventure about creativity and companionship during times of peril.

Maya is a comic book artist in the middle of a creative crisis.

She's constantly stressed about deadlines and feels like she's not doing the type of work she loves. In between trying to fight her writer's block and doling out dating advice to her best friend, Maya receives an unexpected visitor: Soma, an extraterrestrial being who crashlands in Maya's living room. Soma delivers a message to Maya, warning her that an alien invasion from his own kind is fast approaching—and he needs her help to stop it!

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